Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you support delaying federalization to December 2010?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 6

As of October 1, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Indon Quake

A powerful earthquake that struck western Indonesia trapped thousands of people under buildings.

ASIA...Page 22

Rat Killer

Bangladesh on Wednesday awarded a farmer who killed more than 83,000 rats.

OFFBEAT...Page 24

Ex-cop allegedly beats up ex inside senator's office. **PAGE 5**

Diocese, CREAM to raise funds for RP typhoon victims. **PAGE 6**

Samoas death toll reaches 150

By ROD McGUIRK and AUDREY McAVOY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

APIA, Samoa (AP)—Stunned Samoans combed through the sodden wreckage of their lives and told of the terror of being trapped underwater or flung inland by a tsunami that ravaged towns and killed at least 150 people in the South Pacific.

Officials expect the death toll from Tuesday's disaster to rise as more areas are searched.

"The devastation caused was complete," Samoan Prime Minister Tuilaepa Sailele

See SAMOAS on Page 4

AP

A beach-side road is half destroyed as debris litters the sand at Lalomanu, Samoa, as they search for bodies, Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2009, a day after a deadly tsunami rolled through several South Pacific island nations.

'THINK ABOUT ABILITIES, NOT DISABILITIES'

John Cabrera of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, along with students and adults with disabilities, parents, advocates, government officials and employers, listens to one of the speakers in yesterday's Nationality Disability Employment Awareness Month proclamation signing led by Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos (not shown in photo) at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe. OVR, an agency tasked to extend rehabilitation services to individuals with disabilities to prepare for, secure, retain, or regain employment, has 257 clients as of Sept. 23. ***See story on Page 3***.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

$6M in medical referrals exclude patient treatment costs in 3 years

Kilili says CNMI, not feds, will be the answer to CHC problems

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Health spent over $6 million in transporting and accommodating patients and their family escorts to off-island health care facilities between Fiscal Years 2007 and 2009, but this amount still

See REFERRALS on Page 4

FAST FACTS:

Non-medical costs of patient referrals from FYs 2007 to 2009

- Patient, medical and family escort travel: **$3.365 million**
- Subsistence allowance: **$1.104 million**
- Hotel and other claims: **$1.655 million**
- **TOTAL** **$6.124 million**

Note: Total amount excludes cost of medical treatment and care to CNMI patients

Man found dead in hotel

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A 49-year-old man who had a history of mental illness was found dead inside one of the rooms of a hotel in San Vicente Wednesday morning.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Jason T. Tarkong said yesterday the

See MAN on Page 4

Melor, now a typhoon, nears CNMI

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

With maximum sustained winds of 120 miles per hour, the potentially dangerous Tropical Storm Melor turned into a typhoon yesterday, con-

See MELOR on Page 4

LIFE'S SHORT TYPE FAST

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PROVEN LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE
Established regular press conferences to promote transparent government
Signed into law two balanced budgets with legislative support, including one budget with austerity measures to keep more employees on the payroll
Abolished MPLA and saved millions of tax payer dollars
Declared a State Emergency for CPA and prevented a bond default
Issued 429 homestead lots on Tinian and 150 homestead lots for Rota
Established a One Start permitting center for business and consumer convenience
Established a holiday recognizing the historic achievements of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at no additional cost to the CNMI government
Ben Fitial Eloy Inos 2009
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www.ben-eloy.com

Local

New regs for religion courses out

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Education on Monday formally proposed a new regulation governing the transfer of religion credits for the Public School System, where it recommended no more than one credit for any religion subjects transferred to the system.

The Education Board had approved the policy change in August due to the large number of private school students transferring to public schools as a result of the economic crisis. Private schools usually offer religion subjects to their students.

In the proposal, BOE said that religion courses will be accepted for credit using the following guidelines: no more than one credit will be accepted for a religion subject, and any religion credit transferred will be counted toward and factored into the student's overall grade point average, or GPA.

It also stated that courses taken outside of PSS may be transferred if it is from a U.S. accredited institution and the institution's primary language of instruction is English and the subject area coverage and time allotment are parallel to PSS.

The proposed regulation also requires students entering PSS from other educational settings to submit evidence of their achievement in the last grade attended.

Under the BOE approved guidelines, a student shall not be enrolled at any public schools without an official transcript or other official school verification of achievement from the previous school. However, the student may be permitted to enroll temporarily until an official record is obtained.

The proposed regulation, now posted on the Commonwealth Register, seeks public comment.

In August, board members had a lengthy debate on the subject, particularly on how many credits will be assigned to religion courses.

A board committee initially recommended two or three credits for the subject. This was not approved by members.

Based on PSS policy 2510, no religion course credits can be accepted by public schools—even as electives. A high school student needs 28 units to meet the graduation requirements.

McDonald's
Singing Idol
McDonald's Saipan is inviting everyone to watch the grand finals of the McDonald's Singing Idol on October 10, 2009 (Saturday) 4:00 p.m. at the McDonald's Restaurant in Middle Road.
Winners of the Three Categories
McDonald's Little Singing Idol
6 to 9 years old
McDonald's Teen Singing Idol
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McChicken Sandwich $1.00
Small Fries $1.00
1 pc. Apple Pie $1.00
Small Triple Thick Shake $1.00
3 pcs. Cookies Available at Middle Road Store Only $1.00
i'm lovin' it

CUC urged to disclose 'overbilled' customers on Rota

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

A Rota lawmaker urged the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. yesterday to disclose the names of all its customers on Rota who were overbilled in their utility consumptions to ensure that these residents will be given refunds on their payments.

This came about after the CNMI Supreme Court ruled on Monday that the agency illegally overbilled two Saipan customers—Rep. Stanley Torres and Jack A. Angello—from July 22 to Oct. 24, 2006, and ordered a recalculation of their billings.

The high court ruling had also stated that the increase in CUC rates implemented in 2006 was unconstitutional.

On behalf of the people of Rota, Sen. Paterno Hocog asked CUC to disclose the names of affected customers on Rota during the same period.

The lawmaker wants to know how much is the total overbilling received by these customers and CUC's plan to solve the problem.

CUC had said it is not certain if all bills in that period will be recalculated and that it is currently reviewing the court decision to determine its impact on its operation.

CUC announced yesterday that based on the Public Utilities Commission's decision and order on Sept. 3, the levelized energy adjustment clause will remain at $0.20147 per kilowatt-hour. LEAC primarily reflects CUC's cost of oil.

The commission earlier junked the 12-percent increase CUC wanted for Oct. 1 through March 2010.

Federal court grants two DPS officials' request for hearing

The federal court has granted the request of two Department of Public Safety officials for a hearing on the U.S. government's motion to seize money or property that belong to them.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson ordered DPS deputy commissioner Aniceto Ogumoro and CNMI range master Ambrosio Ogumoro to appear in court today, Friday, at 10am, to explain why they don't owe the U.S. government any money.

The Ogumoros asked for the hearing because they insist they do not owe the U.S. government any money. The U.S. government argues otherwise. The Ogumoros also claim that the property the U.S. government is trying to take from them is exempt.

The federal court recently directed DPS and the Edward Manibusan law firm to withhold the salary, money or property of the Ogumoros in order to pay a court judgment now amounting to $3.9 million against the brothers over an oil spill incident.

The U.S. District Court for the NMI's clerk of court issued the writ of continuing garnishment to DPS and to the Manibusan law firm as counsel of the Soledad T. Ogumoro estate. The writ was issued at the request of the U.S. government. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Over 1,000 PSS employees undergo training

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Over a thousand employees of the CNMI Public School System on Saipan will gather today for various sessions and workshops aimed at making them better educators.

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan will welcome all public school teachers, teacher aides, and support staffers at Marianas High School for the PSS Statewide Professional Development, which will begin at 8am.

All public school classes on Saipan are closed today.

Employees from Tinian and Rota will be provided separate professional development trainings.

Members of the Board of Education led by board chair Lucy Blanco-Maratita are expected to grace the occasion, which will run through 4pm today.

PSS has invited Don Johnston, founder of Don Johnston Inc. (Solo Software), as the event's keynote speaker.

After the rigorous trainings and workshops, participants will be treated to short entertainment during the breakout sessions. Food vendors will also be present.

Presenters in the morning sessions include Associate Commissioner for Instruction and Curriculum Jackie Quitugua, nutritionist Hee Jae Lee, legal counsel Kelley Butcher, language arts coordinator Steve Smith, Lt. Col. Robert Gay, and Dr. Carlos Madrid.

In the afternoon, topics will include career and technical education, planning and assessment, code of ethics and accountability, classroom management, closing math gaps, and others.

PSS originally had four strategic priorities: high student performance, highly qualified faculty and staff, effective and efficient operations, and safe and orderly schools. This school year, Education Commissioner Sablan added a new strategy: parent and community partnership. Together, they form the core goals of what has been dubbed "Strategic Priorities Plus One."

OVR vows to intensify equal employment aid

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

As the CNMI observes October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation vowed to further intensify efforts to help persons with disabilities get more opportunities to be employed.

OVR Director Margarita Olopai-Taitano said this is a time for reaching out to people with disabilities and encouraging and convincing them that there is hope for them and "that their dreams can be fulfilled."

However, she emphasized that these individuals also need to go through the orientation, application process and interview to determine if they are eligible to work.

"You as an applicant need to also cooperate and be willing to work," said Taitano during the proclamation signing yesterday at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

In attendance were some OVR trainees, stakeholders and government leaders led by Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who signed the proclamation.

Taitano said that applicants must keep in mind that their disabilities should not be an excuse for them to be immediately absorbed into the program.

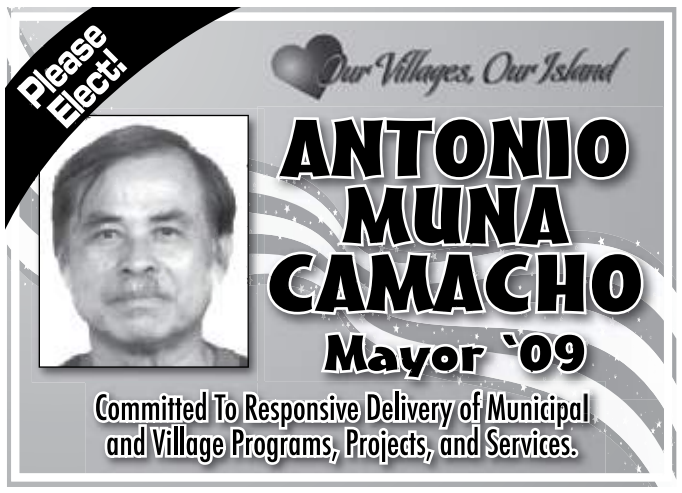
The role of the OVR, she said, is to empower the applicant so that he/she is expected to be ready and be confident to face the world of work.

OVR had a total of 257 clients as of Sept. 23. Of this number, 33 persons have been rehabilitated, including 17 who are now employed, six in the process of employment and six in the training process.

These figures, Taitano said, means that there are no more impediments or obstacles for them to work successfully at their job sites.

This year's theme is "Expectation + Opportunity = Full Participation" emphasizing the significant role that expectations play in the success of individuals in the communities.

"With fulfilled expectations and opportunities for employment choices in the workplace for people with disabilities, full participation for people with disabilities in our economy can be truly realized,' the proclamation states.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'Actuarial accrued liability breaks $1B ceiling'

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial disclosed that the NMI Retirement Fund's actuarial accrued liability skyrocketed from $669 million in 1998 to more than $1 billion in 2005, reflecting an increase of $331 million.

This reflects an average increase of $48 million every year since 1998, he said during the gubernatorial forum sponsored by a retirees' association Tuesday night at the Multi-Purpose Center.

"This is why the Fund was broke," he told the crowd.

The actuarial accrued liability tells how much money the government needs to have in order to pay for the cost of all retirement benefits owed over the lifetime of the retirees.

Fitial cited two reasons why the actuarial accrued liability grew so fast: growth in the number of members and increasing benefits.

As of October 2005, there were over 8,000 Fund members.

In increasing benefits, Fitial emphasized the need to identify the money to pay for it.

"Unfortunately, many laws were passed to increase benefits without identifying funding and realizing how much it would cost," Fitial said.

He cited the establishment of the defined contribution plan initiated by his administration to solve the problem.

"This closed your plan to new members, stopped the uncontrollable growth of the cost, and protected your benefits," he told the crowd. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

SAMOAS

From Page 1

told New Zealand's National Radio on Wednesday after inspecting the southeast coast of the main island of Upolu, the most heavily hit area. "In some villages absolutely no house was standing. All that was achieved within 10 minutes by the very powerful tsunami."

His own village of Lesa was washed away, as were many others in Samoa and nearby American Samoa and Tonga.

A magnitude 8.0 quake struck off Samoa at 6:48 a.m. local time Tuesday. The islands soon were engulfed by four tsunami waves 15 to 20 feet high that reached up to a mile inland.

"To me it was like a monster—just black water coming to you. It wasn't a wave that breaks, it was a full force of water coming straight," said Luana Tavale, an American Samoa government employee.

Tuilaepa said the death toll in Samoa was 110, mostly elderly and young children. At least 31 people were killed on American Samoa, Gov. Togiola Tulafono said. Officials in the island nation of Tonga said nine people had been killed.

Samoan police commander Lilo Maiava predicted the toll would rise.

"It may take a week, two weeks or even three weeks" to complete the search for the many people still missing, he said.

The quake was centered about 120 miles south of the nation of Samoa, formerly part of New Zealand, which has about 220,000 people, and American Samoa, a U.S. territory of 65,000. The two lie about halfway between New Zealand and Hawaii, just east of the international date line. That means the tsunami hit Tuesday morning there, while it was already Wednesday in Asia.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii said it issued an alert, but the waves came so quickly that residents only had about 10 minutes to respond.

New Zealand school teacher Charlie Pearse choked back tears as she spoke to New Zealand's TV One News from an Apia hospital bed in Samoa, recalling how she was trapped underwater and thought she was going to die.

She was in the back of a truck trying to outrun the tsunami with about 20 children when a wave tossed the truck and it landed on top of them.

"We all went under the water and I think a number of the children died instantly," Pearse said.

"I asked, 'Is this my time to come home? Take me home, I'm ready,' and I let my breath out and I took a big gulp of water ... and I don't know, I just popped out (from under the water)," Pearse said.

On the island of Upolu, taro farmer Tony Fauena said he ran for the hills when the deadly tsunami thundered across the coast while his niece ran to rescue her 6-month-old son. Villagers found the bodies of the mother and son entangled in uprooted trees and debris at the foot of lush mountains 200 yards (meters) from the ocean.

"Many parents died trying to protect their children," Fauena told The Associated Press from the ruins of a brother's home in the village of Sale Ataga on the southeast coast as he watched police search the same area for four more missing relatives.

The heavily damaged southeast coast of the island was a stretch of flattened, mud-swept villages. Mattresses hung from trees. Police searched for survivors amid pulverized homes and bodies scattered in a swamp. Several tourist resorts were wiped out, authorities said.

In Tonga, government spokesman Lopeti Senituli said parts of an island have disappeared, with two of the island's three villages virtually flattened.

"The hospital on the island has been severely damaged as well as the airport runway ... meaning no fixed-wing aircraft can land," he said. A Tongan patrol boat has been sent with water, food and shelter for more than 1,000 residents.

American Samoa Gov. Togiola Tulafono said Wednesday evening that finding survivors was a priority.

"We are doing lifesaving and life-sustaining efforts, so if there is anybody that is still missing, (they need) to be found," Tulafono told reporters in the capital, Pago Pago. "We're making that a priority."

U.S. Coast Guard Capt. Barry Compagnoni, whose jurisdiction includes the port of Pago Pago, said a disaster assessment team was to arrive later Wednesday from Honolulu and will work with local officials to analyze the damage.

Power in Pago Pago was expected to be out in some areas for up to a month, and officials said some 2,200 people were in seven shelters across the island.

The waves lifted a building housing a hardware store and carried it across a two-lane highway. Crews later found the two employees' bodies in the debris.

Red Cross relief worker Garete Wolfe at a hilltop camp in Samoa said water was the most critical need.

"The water lines are all ... damaged, and with this water problem we face waterborne disease," Wolfe said.

A Coast Guard C-130 plane loaded with aid and carrying Federal Emergency Management Agency officials flew from Hawaii to Pago Pago, where debris had been cleared from runways. President Barack Obama has declared a major disaster for American Samoa.

Australian officials said they will send an air force plane carrying 20 tons of humanitarian aid, as well as aid officials and medical personnel to Samoa.

New Zealand provided 1 million New Zealand dollars ($710,000) in immediate aid to Samoa, Tonga and the Samoan Red Cross on Thursday. Acting Prime Minister Bill English said Prime Minister John Key is cutting short his U.S. vacation to fly to Samoa to inspect the damage.

The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs said three Australians were among the dead. The British Foreign Office said one Briton was missing and presumed dead.

While the earthquake and tsunami were big, they were not as large as the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami that killed more than 230,000 in a dozen countries across Asia.

McGuirk reported from Apia, McAvoy from Pago Pago, American Samoa. Also contributing were Associated Press writers Fili Sagapolutele in Pago Pago, Ray Lilley in Wellington, New Zealand; Tanalee Smith in Adelaide, Australia; Jaymes Song, Mark Niesse, Herbert A. Sample in Honolulu, Cara Anna in Bangkok, Amy Taxin in Santa Ana, Calif., and Seth Borenstein and Michele Salcedo in Washington.

REFERRALS

From Page 1

does not include the cost of providing medical treatment and other services to the patients.

A breakdown of non-medical costs associated with the referral of CNMI patients to Guam, Manila, Hawaii and the U.S. mainland is based on data provided yesterday by House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) to House Health, Education and Welfare Committee chair Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan).

At the same time, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) told Torres that the federal government is not the answer to all of problems at the Commonwealth Health Center that the panel had identified.

"We in the Commonwealth have to take the initiative," Sablan said in a Sept. 28 response to the letter of Torres, who asked for help with CHC's problems.

Sablan cited as an example a step he initiated in August asking a Guam company that currently provides imaging services to CNMI patients to set up operation at CHC.

"This would make it unnecessary to send patients to Guam for these services. The company is more than capable and willing to make the move. Now it is up to our CHC officials to take advantage of this opportunity to improve service and save money," said Sablan.

DPH earlier disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* over $6 million in medical referral costs in the last three fiscal years, but no breakdown of where the money was spent was provided.

Yumul had asked the Medical Referral Office to provide specific figures.

"I am providing you statistics of expenses incurred for medical referrals from fiscal years 2007-2009 and a breakdown of the procedures performed in an effort to assist your Committee in identifying areas within CHC that are in dire need of physicians and other technical staff to provide life-saving on-island services to the community," Yumul told Torres.

Torres's committee plans to conduct an oversight hearing on DPH and its component agency, the Commonwealth Health Center, tentatively set for Oct. 14.

Leading nature of referrals

Of the 2,188 referrals made in the last three fiscal years, 449 were for oncology, followed by radiology with 447, and 361 for cardiology.

The Medical Referral Office processed 565 patients in FY 2007; 716 in FY 2008; and 907 in 2009.

Almost 63 percent or 1,373 of the 2,188 referrals in the three-year period were to Guam, followed by Manila, 420; Honolulu, 357; and 38, others mostly the U.S. mainland.

In FY 2009 alone, 192 patients were referred to Guam for radiology, followed by 128 patients referred also to Guam for oncology, and 56 patients referred to Manila for cardiology.

Yumul broke down the expenses for FYs 2007 to 2009 into three areas: patient, medical and family escort travel, $3.365 million; subsistence allowance, $1.655 million; and hotel and other claims, $1.587 million, for a total of over $6 million.

For patients' transportation alone in FY 2009, the CNMI government spent $1.304 million. For the same period, it spent $585,990 to transport family escorts, and $144,241 for physician and nurse escorts.

"The committee will be asking for details with regards to 'claims' from the medical referral office," Yumul said.

Hotel expenses alone reached $422,100 in FY 2009, while claims topped $539,866.

MELOR

From Page 1

tinuing to move closer to the Northern Marianas.

As of 4:30pm, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial declared Typhoon Condition III for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota due to the anticipated threat of Typhoon Melor.

As of 7pm,Typhoon Melor was about 425 miles east of Saipan, 430 miles east of Tinian and 455 miles east of Rota.

According to the National Weather Service in Guam, Typhoon Melor was moving west-northwest at 10 miles per hour. Movement along this track is expected to continue during the next 24 to 48 hours. It is also expected to intensify.

Typhoon force winds extend outward up to 40 miles from the center, while tropical storm winds extend outward up to 120 miles from the center.

NWS predicts Melor to pass near northern Saipan this afternoon, Friday, to Saturday afternoon.

NWS advised CNMI and Guam residents to closely monitor this "potentially dangerous tropical cyclone."

"Melor will be a large and dangerous system before it reaches the Marianas. The radius of damaging winds already extends far from the center. The onset of damaging winds is possible in the Northern Marianas Friday night and early Saturday morning on Guam," the agency said.

Meanwhile, the CNMI and Guam were cleared of tropical cyclone watches or warnings from Super Typhoon Parma as of 2pm yesterday, with the super typhoon moving closer to the Philippines.

MAN

From Page 1

victim was Caucasian and a known alcoholic.

Tarkong said they are withholding the victim's name until the next of kin is notified.

Sources said the victim used to be an English teacher at Marianas High School. In 2003, the Department of Labor temporarily banned him from hiring alien workers after he failed to pay the salary of his contract workers.

The DPS spokesperson said police placed the case under further investigation.

Tarkong said that, on Wednesday at 9:05am, police assistance was requested for a possible dead person inside one of the guest rooms at Stanford Hotel.

Police learned that a foul odor was coming from one of the rooms and witnesses had discovered a decomposing body in the room.

Police investigation showed that an employee of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc. had arrived at the hotel with other co-workers to check on their client, who had not been seen in the past few days.

When the NMPASI employee knocked on the door of the victim's room, no one answered. The door was locked. There was also a foul odor coming from inside the room.

With the assistance of hotel employees, they opened the door and discovered the body of the victim on the floor, blocking the door.

Witnesses were unable to push the door open because of the victim's body. Police were then called.

The responding police officers were able to gain access to the room where they saw the victim's lifeless body. It was already in the beginning stages of decomposition.

The NMPASI employee identified the victim as their client. Witnesses said the victim was last seen a few days before. They noticed the lights in the room were off.

On Wednesday morning, a hotel employee smelled the foul odor and reported it to hotel's maintenance personnel. The hotel employees also noticed a lot of flies around the window and door of the room.

The victim's body was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center where he was pronounced dead by a doctor at 11:30am.

Ex-cop allegedly beats up ex inside senator's office

A former police officer allegedly beat up his former girlfriend inside the office of Sen. Paul Manglona at the legislative building on Capital Hill on Tuesday.

Victor Val Borja Hocog Jr. was arrested and taken to the Superior Court yesterday on charges of assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

The victim sustained injuries, police said.

Associate judge Ramona V. Manglona found probable cause to detain Hocog and imposed a $7,000 cash bail and required a third-party custodian for his temporary liberty.

Manglona required the defendant to observe a daily 6pm to 6am curfew and barred him from having direct or indirect contact with the alleged victim.

Preliminary hearing was set for Oct. 8 at 9am. Arraignment was set for Oct. 13.

Police investigation showed that, on Tuesday afternoon, Hocog went inside the office of Sen. Manglona where his ex-girlfriend works. Hocog allegedly locked the door and started choking and slapping the victim.

Upon learning of the commotion, the Legislature's sergeant-at-arms broke down the door to open it. The victim ran outside the building, but Hocog chased her and allegedly tried to strangle her.

The police were called but Hocog left the place before the officers arrived. He was later arrested.

A source said the fight was over a laptop issue. The victim has stopped working since the incident.

Hocog is the son of Rota Rep. Victor Hocog. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Fitial to file complaint against DEA

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said he will lodge a formal complaint against the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration for breach of protocol by not informing him of an ongoing investigation into his former driver's "ice" dealing that could have endangered his life and that of his family.

The governor said DEA chose not inform him of the investigation that started in December 2008 when protocol requires the federal agency to do so.

Fitial said if it were the governor of other states or territories whose life was in danger, DEA would have informed that governor immediately.

"They don't like me," said Fitial when asked why he thinks DEA acted differently in this case.

He said DEA is politicking and wants to force him to return to the DEA Task Force the local police and customs officers he pulled after intensive body searches on passengers of an inaugural Shanghai Airlines flight in October 2008.

The governor reiterated that the only reason he will reinstate the local enforcement officers to the task force is if and when DEA agent Tony Marquez is replaced. Marquez, the resident agent in charge for the DEA in Guam and the CNMI, led the body searches on the passengers of Shanghai Airlines.

The formal complaint, which Fitial intends to address to DEA's Tony Williams, is being drafted, he said.

After nine months of investigation into Reyes' activities, Fitial said DEA couldn't make an arrest.

Reyes surrendered to federal agents on Sept. 24.

Fitial said when he was in Washington, D.C. he talked to his former driver Reyes over the phone. He said Reyes told him that he's being investigated for selling methamphetamine or "ice."

He said he asked Reyes, "Are you?" to which Reyes said "no."

The governor said he told Reyes to turn himself in. On the same afternoon he surrendered, Reyes was charged with one count of possession of a controlled substance within 1,000 feet of a playground with intent to distribute. He pleaded not guilty.

In a news briefing on Wednesday, Fitial said he will let the justice system take its course on Reyes' case.

He, however, said that DEA's handling of the investigation is disappointing.

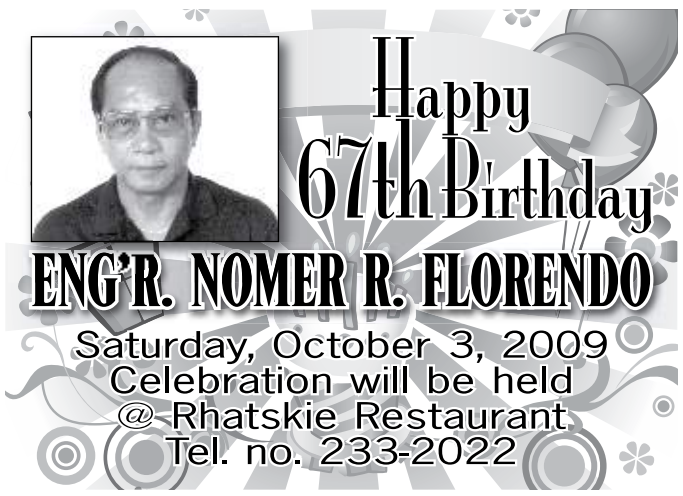
If the charges against Reyes are true, Fitial said, individuals who may have been dealing drugs with Reyes could have harmed him or his family.

"I would have acted responsibly," said Fitial when asked how we would have acted had DEA informed him of the investigation.

DEA said Reyes used Fitial's vehicle—a blue Nissan Pathfinder—to sell "ice," sometimes right after dropping off the governor at his office on Capital Hill.

"I could have been killed by those involved in drug dealing, those recipients of my driver's drug, if the allegations are true. Why didn't DEA tell me? It took them months to charge him. This is not the right way. It placed the governor in a very dangerous situation," Fitial said in an earlier interview with Saipan Tribune.

DEA received a tip about Reyes' "ice" use and distribution as early as December 2008.



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CK diocese, CREAM to raise funds for RP typhoon victims

The Coalition for the Recognition, Equality and Advancement of American Minorities and the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa will be separately conducting fundraising drives to raise funds that will assist victims of Typhoon Ketsana in the Philippines.

CREAM is spearheading a Typhoon Relief Drive on Sunday, Oct. 4, starting at 11am. Monetary donations are preferred so freight costs of boxes for donated goods will not be needed. Donations may be dropped off at the Minachom Atdao pavilion. The money will be sent to the Philippine National Red Cross.

"We hope that our community will unite in sending whatever help we can give to ease the pain and suffering of our kababayans [countrymen] and their families," said CREAM in a statement.

Bishop Tomas A. Camacho of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa has ordered a second collection to be done in all the Masses in all Catholic churches on Saipan, Rota and Tinian this Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009, in response to the appeal by the Philippine government for massive relief efforts for those devastated by the floods.

In a statement issued Wednesday, the diocese said this second collection is in "solidarity with the thousands of victims of Typhoon [Ketsana] that hit Metro Manila and nearby provinces, and is a concrete response to the urgent need and appeal by the Philippine government."

After seeing on television and being informed of the widespread devastation caused by the floods brought by the typhoon, Bishop Camacho immediately came up with the idea of asking all those who will attend Holy Mass this Sunday to share whatever amount they can spare and give to the second collection that will be made after each Mass.

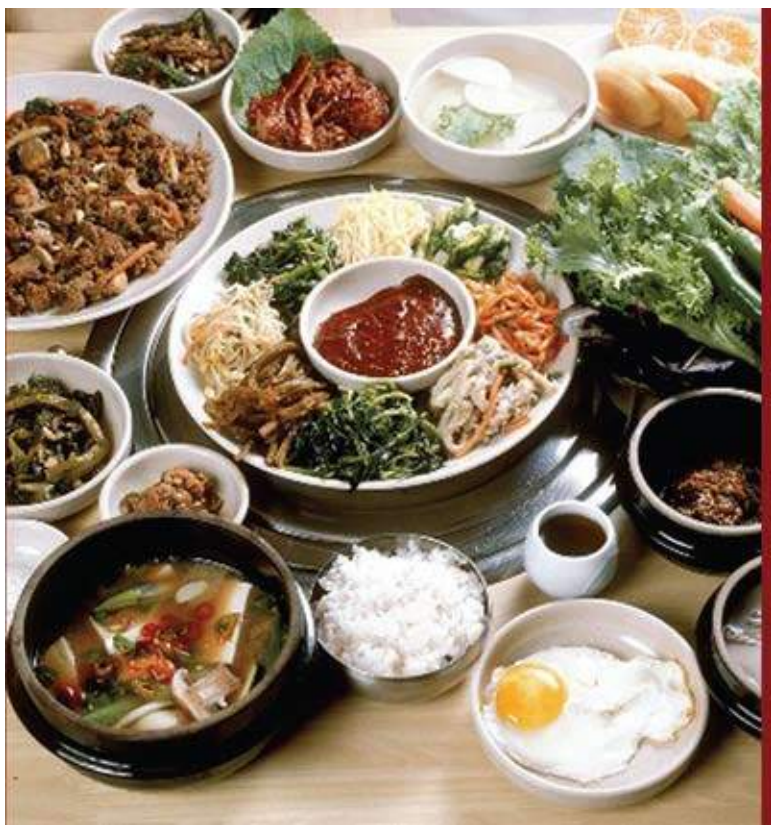
"To do something and come to the aid of those who are in most need of help at this time in the Philippines is a most Christian act and is the true expression of one's faith and love for God," Bishop Camacho said.

In Washington, D.C., U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) issued a statement regarding the devastation and casualties caused by Ketsana in the Philippines, saying he sympathizes with the thousands of Filipinos who are suffering the loss of life, home, and all worldly possessions as a result of the typhoon.

"As the representative of the Northern Mariana Islands in the U.S. Congress, another Pacific area susceptible to natural disaster, I understand the difficulty and tremendous effort involved in recovering from such a devastating event. I commend local and other charitable institutions from around the world that are currently raising money and providing assistance to answer President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's call for help from the international community. My thoughts and prayers go out to all the victims of Tropical Storm [Ketsana]," said Sablan.

In other news, this Sunday, Oct. 4, is the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. There will be a blessing of pets in front of Mount Carmel Cathedral at 5pm. St. Francis is known as the patron saint of animal lovers. People are invited to bring their pets in front of the Cathedral this Sunday.

For more information about the CREAM campaign, contact Emy Pamintuan at 483-0727 or e-mail rvepamintuan@yahoo.com. ***(Saipan Tribune)***



Celebrate "Chuseok" at Kili Cafe & Terrace

Celebrate Korean Thanksgiving "Chuseok" at Kili Cafe & Terrace in the Hyatt Regency Saipan. Master Chef Kim and Master Chef Jung from Hyatt Regency Incheon showcase their talents with an authentic Korean celebratory buffet.Enjoy creations such as a spicy Korean Hot Pot, marinated grilled meats and seafood, traditional dishes like Bulgogi beef stew and Kimchi pancakes.

"Chuseok" Dinner Buffet is available from October 1st till 10th
6:00pm - 10:00pm
$35.00 per person*
Buffet includes beer (wine on Tuesdays)
*Club at the Hyatt cards welcome

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

Hyatt's Chuseok festival showcases authentic Korean cuisine

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

WHAT'S COOKING?

Two chefs from Hyatt Regency Incheon are currently in town to introduce local diners to authentic traditional Korean cuisine as part of celebrations of the Chuseok Festival, the Korean Thanksgiving.

Tae Hoon Kim and Kyung Yoon Jung said they are glad to share their expertise during the 10-day Chuseok Festival, which is being held at the Hyatt Regency Saipan from Oct. 1 to Oct. 10.

Dinner guests can enjoy specialties such as the spicy Korean hot pot, marinated grilled meats and seafood, traditional dishes like bulgogi beef stew and Kimchi pancakes.

The Chuseok dinner buffet is available at 6pm to 10pm at a reasonable price of $35 per person and includes beer (wine on Tuesdays) at the Kili Café & Terrace. Club at the Hyatt members may avail of discounts.

For reservations and information, call 234-1234 Ext. 26.

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Price: $35 per person
Venue: Kili Café & Terrace
For reservations: 234-1234 Ext. 26

Executive chef Gabrielle Colombo said the authentic creations of the two Korean chefs will be the main highlights of the event.

"This is the first time we have invited guest chefs from Korea. We are very lucky that we have a big company, that's why we are able to bring in international culinary experts," Colombo said.

He said he personally invited the two through Hyatt Incheon's executive chef Mirko Agostini, a fellow Italian who worked in Guam and Bali in the past.

Kim said he will be preparing kalbi hin, bibimbap and different types of kimchi.

The dinner buffet will change each day during the festival.

"We want [Koreans on Saipan] to experience being at home," said Kim through an interpreter.

During the Chuseok holiday in South Korea, harvest crops are attributed to the blessing of ancestors.

One of the major foods prepared and eaten during the Chuseok holiday is songpyeo, a crescent-shaped rice cake which is steamed upon pine needles. Other dishes commonly prepared are japchae, bulgogi and fruits.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
The two Korean chefs from Hyatt Incheon, Tae Hoon Kim and Kyun Yoon Jung, are flanked by Hyatt Saipan food and beverage director Ranjeet Rajebhosale and executive chef Gabrielle Colombo.

There are an estimated 5,000 to 6,000 Koreans living on Saipan.

Kim has been a chef at Hyatt Incheon in the past four years. Prior to that, he was with Marriott Hotel and Seoul Renaissance. Hyatt Incheon had sent him once as a guest chef to a similar event in Taiwan.

Jung, on the other hand, had just been to Hyatt Vietnam and Hyatt Philippines to share his expertise.

Explaining the uniqueness of the traditional Korean cuisine, Kim said it's healthier and fresher compared to other international styles of cooking because it uses less oil.

"It's basically boiling the food, say the meat, and fermenting it to take out the oily substance," said Kim.

"The strength of Hyatt is that we are able to get international chefs for our promotions. They bring a lot of experience, kind of out of the ordinary because of the expertise of these talented chefs," said Ranjeet Rajebhosale, director of food and beverage.

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MBA students top McDonald's fundraiser

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Students from Marianas Baptist Academy earned a total of 3,514 points in the McDonald's fundraiser for private schools on Saipan, enabling them to get the $3,500 prize for their effort.

Green Meadow School students came a close second with 3,228 points, winning for their school $3,200, while Mount Carmel School collected 1,482 points, settling for the third prize of $1,000.

Seven schools participated in the school fundraising drive that lasted from Sept. 19 to Sept. 26.

The students distributed coupons that encourage customers to avail of McDonald's regular food offerings as well as promo items and new creations such as the Angus beef burger.

McDonald's Saipan owner/president Jose Ayuyu and store general manager Marcia E. Ayuyu turned over the prizes to the school heads of the winning schools.

Principal Ramiro H. Trinidad received the prize for MBA, while Milagros A. Merjilla (president), Marilyn T. Divino (principal) and Eleonor A. Alejo (guidance counselor) received the award for Green Meadows. MCS president Margaret DelaCruz represented Mount Carmel.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Marianas Baptist Academy principal Ramiro H. Trinidad, left, receives the $3,500 prize from McDonald's owner/president Jose C. Ayuyu, right, and store general manager Marcia E. Ayuyu.

Ayuyu said they decided to increase the prizes for the winning schools because the huge turnout exceeded their expectations.

Aside from the cash prizes, McDonald's also gave out $100 gift certificates to Mount Carmel and $50 each to Marianas Baptist and Green Meadows.

Ayuyu said the other participating schools would also be given something as a way of appreciating their effort.

Trinidad recalled that they never expected to top the fundraising since they have a smaller population of around 90 students.

The money was turned over to the MBA Student Council officers during a meeting yesterday afternoon. The money would be used for a trip to Managaha and a banquet.

Govt seeks to revive defunct Gardenia as a biz incubator

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The government is currently preparing an application for an Economic Development Assistance grant to put to good use the defunct Pacific Gardenia Hotel, which would be converted into a business incubation center.

Commonwealth Development Authority executive director Manny Sablan explained that the incubation center would give people who want to start businesses a venue to visualize what kind of business they can establish.

CDA owns the hotel, which had filed for bankruptcy in September 2004 and was later placed under receivership. It went through a bidding process but no one showed interest.

"We have to maintain it and we want to provide improvement," Sablan said.

CDA recently filed a case against the former owners of the hotel for allegedly failing to pay a 1989 loan that is now reaching $1.2 million, including interest and other charges.

Sablan said the Department of Commerce is taking the lead in converting the former hotel into a center to generate additional income to the government. It would house the Small Business Development Center and private entrepreneurs.

Commerce Secretary Micahel Ada had already informed the Commonwealth Zoning Office about the plan.

Zoning administrator Victor Barrett said this is consistent with the Saipan Zoning Law of 2008.

"We're moving forward with the application. This would definitely help our clients. They can go to the incubation center and see all the programs that the government offers to them," Sablan said.

He said that since the CDA can provide loan assistance, their clients could use the incubation center for space.

"It's kind of a springboard. This is the first time we are establishing such a center," he said.

CDA is looking at a six-month period to get the request for funding.

Improvement activities would include overall renovation of the existing building, rewiring of electrical lines, re-plumbing, upgrading of parking space, and landscaping.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 2, 2000

Tinian Shipping losing over $4 million per year

The decision by the Commonwealth Ports Authority to collect a flat monthly rate of $20,000 for ferry operations between Saipan and Tinian came as a welcome news to financially-distressed Tinian Shipping & Transportation Inc. which has reported to have been incurring losses of over $4 million a year. General manager Peter Cheung said TSTI is suffering a huge financial loss of approximately $4.4 million per year in order to continue with its commitment to ferry passengers between Saipan and Tinian. Cheung said TSTI ferries an average of 12,000 passengers from Saipan each month. Of this figure, 39 percent are local non-paying passengers and the remainder are mostly guests of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

Pepero-Kiyu team vows to block takeover

Hundreds of supporters of the Pepero-Kiyu team attended its dinner fundraiser held last Friday at the Diamond Hotel in which the two made a pitch on their plans, including efforts to block federal takeover attempts as well as to improve education on the islands. Lt. Gov. Jesus "Pepero" R. Sablan, who is seeking Republican nomination for governor in next month's primary, and running-mate Senate Vice President Thomas "Kiyu" P. Villagomez took the stage as supporters cheered them on. With their wives - Annie Sablan and Vicky Villagomez - beside them, the two aspirants expressed confidence of winning the first round ahead of the 2001 general elections.

Oct. 2, 2001

4 injured in 3 car accidents

Four persons were injured in three separate vehicular accidents on Saipan over the weekend. In one of the incidents that happened Sunday night along Beach Road in San Antonio, the driver of the vehicle escaped and abandoned the car, which had damaged windshield, later at Agingan Point. Department of Public Safety spokesperson Cecilia Celes said the victim, a 37-year-old Chinese man, sustained lacerations on the forehead and body pains. On the same day, two women were hit by a car along Beach Road in San Antonio at about 6pm. Celes said the Chinese women, aged 23 and 28, were walking at the shoulder of the road's southbound lane when a Toyota Tacoma driven by a Korean national hit them.

LMA boys break the stereotype

The stereotype of being Linala Malawasch Academy students have virtually followed them wherever they go. Stereotypically tagged as "troublemakers," school fights have usually been blamed on this zealous bunch of LMA boys. But when several reported gang-related fights broke out at the Hopwood Junior High School two weeks ago, guess what some of these teenagers did? In a situation where they were expected to be the perpetrators, the bunch of Carlos Sanchez, Michael Reyes, Benjamin Magofna, Marvin Somol, Adrian Castro, Eric Defang and others surprisingly fielded as heroes by trying to put a stop to what was dubbed as Hopwood's biggest fist fights this year.

Oct. 2, 2002

Aid is on its way

Carrying boxes of assorted goods, a six-man team from the Emergency Management Office yesterday sailed to the Northern Islands to augment food supplies for residents of Agrigan and Alamagan Islands that were recently hit by Typhoon Higos. The team boarded the Kaiyu III vessel at the Smiling Cove Marina yesterday afternoon. EMO director Rudolfo Pua dispatched the team, after the agency pooled relief goods for the affected residents. The goods came from the American Red Cross and the Northern Islands Mayor's Office based on Saipan. Anthony Tenorio, Response and Recovery coordinator at the EMO, said relatives of affected residents who are on Saipan also contributed relief goods.

West Coast strike to impact garment firms

With majority of imports entering the CNMI coming from Asia, the ongoing labor dispute between shipping lines and longshoremen at 29 major Pacific ports in the West Coast would probably have a minimal impact in terms of the availability of goods in market shelves. However, each day of delay in the resolution of the strike would most likely have a heavy impact on the Commonwealth's lone export industry-the garment manufacturing sector-which relies heavily on sea transport in delivering their finished products to their buyers in the U.S. mainland.

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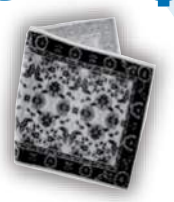

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EDITORIAL

The meaning of freedom

More than one year after it decided that detainees at the U.S. Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, had a right to challenge their detentions in federal courts, the Supreme Court is being asked to deal with the latest controversy: Do federal judges have the power to order detainees released into the United States?

The question is far from academic, as illustrated poignantly by the case of brothers Bahtiyar Mahnut and Arkin Mahmud. As reported by The Washington Post, the brothers are Uighurs, Chinese Muslims who face oppression, intimidation and often worse treatment in their homeland because of their religion. In 2001, Bahtiyar traveled to Afghanistan, where he bunked down with other Uighurs and received rudimentary arms training. At the behest of his mother, Arkin went to Afghanistan in search of his younger brother. Both men were captured after the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan and have been held in Guantanamo since 2002. The Bush administration years ago conceded that they were not enemy combatants and that they should be freed. But the men cannot be returned to China for fear they will be tortured.

It has been nearly one year since a federal judge in Washington ordered the release of the brothers and some 15 other Uighur detainees into the United States, citing this country's failure to find third countries willing to take them. An appeals court reversed the ruling and concluded that only the legislature and the executive had the power to allow the men into the country.

On Tuesday, the justices are being asked to take up this case to definitely answer the question. They should do so, despite significant advances during the past few months in finding new homes for the Uighurs.

Much has been made of the success of detainees in challenging their incarceration in federal courts. Of the 38 habeas corpus cases adjudicated to date, detainees have prevailed in 30. Yet 20 men who've been ordered released by federal judges remain behind Guantanamo's wire because the United States has been unable to find suitable homes for them. The island nation of Palau recently announced that it would be willing to take 12 of the remaining Chinese Muslims at Guantanamo—all but Arkin Mahmud, who since his detention and prolonged solitary confinement at the naval base has suffered from serious mental health problems. Bahtiyar Mahnut has turned down a chance at freedom in Palau so he can stay with his brother. Because Congress has essentially forbidden the men from entering this country, the brothers could face indefinite detention if no other country comes forward. This prospect is unconscionable.

Congress could rectify this injustice by crafting a narrow exception to allow the brothers into this country, where there is a sizable Uighur community and where Arkin could get the kind of medical treatment he needs. In the meantime, the justices should take up the case to determine how much power federal judges have to deliver real and meaningful freedom.

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America by Rails Part 11: Ground Zero once more

Travel notes, live and on virtual time (a social commentary)

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

I am at New York City, *glocalis par excellence*. Doing lunch with my budding novelist daughter from Hastings-on-Hudson who joined her mom and I for lunch in Manhattan afforded another look at this megalopolis affectionately referred to as the Big Apple. Later, my daughter accompanied me to the Hawthorne House on 53rd St. between 2nd and 3rd as I visited with my hosts for the day, a Chinese friend and her husband.

Near the UN, a surprising number of Hasidic Jews on 44th St. declared that Iran does not distrust Judaism, only Zionism. "I am Jewish, not Zionist," read a sign. Israel-supporters counter-demonstrated at a ratio of 100 to every one Iranian supporter. The mismatch actually got ugly when the pro-Israelis started to use foul language and gave the finger to the poker-faced bearded black-frocked-and-black-hatted Hasids.

So, it did not take much to decide to get away from the UN environs and go over the former hole-on-the-ground vacated by the twin towers of the World Trade Center. I passed by there earlier in April on a drive to Brooklyn and decided that the pulse beat of America is not to be found in the waste and devastation west of Wall St. toward Battery Park, but on the flesh-and-blood folks in the revitalized sidewalks and storefronts on 42nd St.

Because Metro rails are under repairs, I took an early commuter bus from Spring Valley, NY, to the Port Authority terminal on 42nd and 8th. I had taken the bus before and it only picked up passengers who were in the designated bus stops, but the Swahili-speaking driver on this one kept stopping for passengers as they emerged from their parked cars or ran in the direction of the bus stops. There was an air of familiarity connecting the driver to the rainbow-shaded Babel-tongued riders.

Passengers had evidently just taken showers, and were sprayed with fragrant essences. I listened to my Afro-Am seatmate who could easily be from the Louisiana bayou, tall and slender like a Watusi, start work on her cell phone, reviewing messages, checking the day's calendar, and leaving messages in other people's voice mails. I was an enchanted voyeur to this 20-something of Manhattan's brain pool. I basked in the aromatic pleasantness of the group, especially my seatmate's sweet scent of butterscotch.

After maneuvering through stop-and-go traffic, we finally reached the terminal a few minutes late. Seated in the front with a piece of luggage, I allowed commuters to descend first, and listened to 95 percent of the riders say "thank you" to the driver.

In a time of shouting matches across ideological lines in America, this display of manners is unfamiliar to the impersonality of the urban landscape and the anomie of the city. However, when I started walking on 42nd St., a merchant was actually washing off the dirt in front of his establishment. Whether merchants were allowing the opening of the UN Assembly to look pleasant, the streets were clean and the crowd heading toward Bryant Park on the Avenue of the Americas was alive and alert. The image of an indifferent city and zombie dwellers was nowhere in sight.

Arriving early for my morning appointment, I snuck into Juan Valdez Café on Broadway and 41st for a shot of caffeine and the use of their Wi-Fi. I sought staff assistance after failing to connect. The main office was alerted to the malfunction. The store manager hovered until the service was accessible. Then he offered a complimentary refill at no additional cost. Survey shows that 63 percent of today's consumers are altering their spending patterns for good because of the recession, and I suspect that merchants are also getting more attentive to their style of service.

Girded by the vibes of the morning, with no shortage of affection from kin, and nothing but kind consideration from associates, I felt ready to confront what I thought was going to be a sorrowful descent to the pits of purgatory at WTC ground zero north of Bowling Green. It would not be. To begin with, construction activity at the site was reaching its height for the summer. The foundations are laid and structures have reached above ground. Fashion store Century 21 across from the observation floor of the World Center may now have to upgrade its facade as it gets dwarfed and rendered antiquated by the rising structures.

The airy World Center pavilion fronting the Hudson River overlooks the Hoboken ferry dock plus a marina that berths fancy private yachts, features that define the northern end of the Battery Park esplanade. Our walk through the Garden of Remembrance all the way to the South Ferry where tour boats to Ellis Island and the Statue of Liberty originate did not manifest any of the drumbeats of revenge and vilification directed to the Islamic world. On the contrary, the signage encouraging fishers to cast their lines into the Hudson has many ordinary folks responding to its pleasures. This speaks of transcendence from despair to conditions of rebirth in the locale's spirit. In fact, people in wheelchairs co-mingled with the street sweepers, and many bench-warmers with books just obliviously basked under the sun.

The Bowery was where the bows of the early Dutch armory were kept. The place was named after the instrument that sent pointed projectiles to destinations of death; it quickly evolved into a center of trade and commerce, resulting in the financial district of Wall St. whose tentacles reaches the far corners of the planet. On this day, the Hyatt near the old Pier A was host to many UN dignitaries, presumably agents of peace whose comings-and-goings were escorted by police sirens.

Between the fancy and the formal, the smell of freshness and decay, near the Hyatt on a stretched canvass across a fence, were Helen Keller's words: *"Cut off as I am, it is inevitable that I should sometimes feel like a shadow walking in a shadowy world. When this happens I ask to be taken to New York City. Always I return home weary but I have the comforting certainty that mankind is real flesh and I myself am not a dream."*

See AMERICA on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

The Thirty Years War

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

If you want to have a nervous breakdown, reading the news headlines would probably do the trick, especially given Mother Nature's recent sneak attacks in the Pacific. I'm not one to try to stir up worries, but given that Saipan has a definite stake in U.S. military ventures, as well as a total vulnerability to oil prices, it occurred to me that the zany, madcap antics over Iran have dragged on for, egads, 30 freakin' years now!

Yes, 30 years. That's a long time. I venture to guess that most troops who would see action in Iran, if that day ever comes, weren't even alive 30 years ago. And a lot of people in general might wonder, especially if some Persian Gulf nastiness sends oil prices to $200 a barrel or whatever, why the U.S. and Iran haven't been kissy-faced in recent times. Well, there is some history here, and it ain't pretty.

So I'm going to play old codger and take you back to the days when disco and polyester ruled the streets, and President Jimmy Carter was in office.

The entire U.S. started looking up this strange place, Iran, on the map on Nov. 4, 1979, when TV screens were filled with images of revolutionary students taking over the U.S. embassy in Iran, scoring 53 hostages in the process. The U.S., by the way, was in the grips of an economic malaise, so the nation was in sort of a funk anyway.

But what made the funk worse, and then downright humiliating, was when these rag-tag students with questionable taste in facial hair pretty much made Uncle Sam looks like the world's most bungling, impotent giant. The hostage crisis dragged on, and on, and on...for over a year; 444 days, actually. That's a long, long time to have your face rubbed in the dirt. That's a lot of news cycles for international humiliation.

As bad as that was, things got worse in early 1980, when a botched rescue attempt made the papers, and a few U.S. troops got killed in the sands of the Iranian desert. The word that circulated at the time—which may or may not have been true, but was, sadly, believable given Carter's penchant for total bungling—was that Carter had micromanaged the rescue plans, insisting that all service branches participate in it, instead of picking one service and letting them run with the ball. Again, I don't know if this is what really happened, but the point is that everyone normal had lost faith in the ability of the U.S. to do anything right.

Anyway, Ronald Reagan won the presidency in a landslide victory, and the hostages were released a few minutes after he was sworn in, Jan. 20, 1981. I don't really know why they were released like that, but I do think that President Reagan would not have let things drag on and on.

Anyone who is my age or older, then, remembers this stuff when all the Iran contention hits the headlines these days. I think this might explain some of the less-than-cozy feelings a few generations of Americans have toward Iran. I'm not trying to gin up jingoistic feelings about it, I'm just pointing out that there's an installed base of three decades worth of opinions in many minds, and, for younger folks who might wonder why, well, there you have it.

I'm giving you a thumbnail sketch of the popular sentiment as I remember it, and, of course, you could bore yourself into a drool-stained stupor, if you wanted to, combing over all the history and back story of the U.S. and Iran that led up to the revolution. But the trivia ain't the point. The point is how the American public felt about what was going on.

Anyway, in more recent times, when Iran was in the news again, I wrote a piece for the *Tribune* on April 13, 2007, pondering the bummer that might result if Iran had fielded the dreaded Sunburn cruise missile, which might enable it to stir up trouble in the Persian Gulf, and thereby mess with oil prices at which point everyone on Saipan would be trading their Subarus for burros. An expert e-mailed me and said that Iran had not deployed the Sunburn missile. Whew.

I'm no expert on this Iran gig, so your ideas are probably better than mine. Yet I do get the feeling that the Iran story has got to sort of resolve itself one way or the other...but we thought that back in 1979, and how wrong we were!

Letters to the Editor

No equal opportunities at PSS

My recent application to become a high school principal was rejected because they said I had no administrative experience, I had not taken the PRAXIS for administration and I needed some other courses. Well, I guess my five years in PSS leadership roles, one year as special assistant to the commissioner, five years as a board member, three years as a GM and two years in commercial property management didn't mean squat. I only need to take the test for administrators because if they had read and assessed my transcript properly, they would have discovered I have taken all the course work as part of my masters in educational leadership. Why should anyone holding a masters degree in educational leadership need to take a seminar in the same subject area when they have taken the entire course? Furthermore, I had been certified by PSS' Human Resource to be qualified for the commissioner and associate commissioner positions but I don't qualify to be a principal. Go figure.

PSS issued a request in August for applicants to fill all the principal positions but the kicker is that PSS already knew who they were going to hire because they had already sponsored a "Principal Institute," *only* for the acting principals over the summer. PSS used the institute to qualify the acting principals for the positions, making the announcement for principals purely a joke on any new applicants from within the system that did not attend the principal institute. I knew that something was wrong when PSS waited until August to announce the principal jobs when many teachers were off-island and it was too late to be hiring principals for the school opening. The application process was just a formality to rehire the same people and everyone knows how it works in the CNMI (nepotism and favoritism).

The process of selecting those who would attend the institute discriminated against teachers who also wanted to become principals, especially when teachers had applications on file to become principals. The Principal Institute may not have even cost PSS any more for interested teachers and staff to attend. There is also the fact that the institute should have been open to all PSS employees because all the acting principals still won't make the grade, like we saw with PRAXIS for teachers, leaving a shortage of principals. We also need to do something for PSS' future need for principals but that would have been too fair and too much like having real vision and doing the right thing.

I don't have a problem with the people that will be re-hired as principals but the process that PSS conducted to certify these employees stinks and was unfair. None of the acting principals selected for the institute were ever subjected to an equal opportunity hiring process. The Principal Institute was offered only to acting principals who failed, in some cases for years, to qualify as highly qualified. PSS has again *handpicked* a group of people who were already *handpicked and appointed*. Why weren't we given the same chance to attend the institute that *I* had suggested to BOE for PSS to get highly qualified principals? What gets me is I suggested the training and still got left out. It didn't surprise me, though, because most employees know how PSS operates internally and it's not the first time my ideas were secretly used by PSS and BOE.

Nothing surprises me and many others anymore after witnessing the removal of Tinian Jr/High principal who was literally rewarded with a free vacation to the mainland over the summer. How can a person who committed such a serious act of insubordination and contempt for BOE policy, students and parents still remain in the system? I will tell you—it's the same attitude of favoritism that rewarded the acting principals who failed for years to even meet the standards for being highly qualified. It's not all their fault because PSS wasn't holding them accountable until teachers started to complain about principals not being highly qualified.

I have been trying to be promoted to a principal position for almost three years while others have been appointed during this same time, even though I have an application on file and the appointees did not have to file an application. These same people are in the same principal positions before PSS made the announcement for principals and some of them are still not in compliance with the NCLB standard. How can those who failed in the Principal Institute remain in these positions when there are people waiting in line for an *equal opportunity* to become a principal under the same conditions in which they were appointed and received training? I will gladly take and pass the administrative PRAXIS like I did for teaching but the problem is PSS still won't give teachers an equal opportunity to fill these positions.

But I want to make it clear that I am not upset with any individual who attended the Principal Institute and in fact I commend you for meeting the challenge because we need you. My dissatisfaction is with the Board and leadership of PSS. I had stopped writing about education, hoping and praying things would get better and I tried my very best to support our new Commissioner and Board but my patience is dwindling and I may just have to restart my activism in education.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Former BOE Teacher Rep

Ed Fleming, a friendship remembered

To the family, please accept my heartfelt sympathy for the loss of our friend, the best drummer the island had ever produced. My friend, your group known as "Shaft," provided so much memorable highs and fun memories to us, your band-mates: Nobie, Ed Diaz, myself, and your fans in the early 1970s. My friend, your gentle voice, smooth and polished modulation, sincere and unfeigned emotional expression, warm and friendly smile, confidence and poise while beating your drums, and unsurpassed brilliance are all treasured in our hearts. A beautiful flower does not bloom for long, a lovely scene does not last forever. Tears of parting and sadness will someday come to smiling faces. Your departure leaves a huge void in the lives of your friends. Peace be with you, my friend.

Ray Torres
San Francisco, CA

Thank you

On behalf of the Saipan Major League Baseball Association, I'd like to thank the hardworking folks at Tan Holdings for the outstanding work being done at both the Francisco Palacios Baseball and the Tan Ge Softball/Little League Fields.

The dugouts and the bleachers at both fields have all received some much-needed repair and paintwork, courtesy of Tan Holdings. Players and fans alike will definitely appreciate the new look as they wait anxiously for baseball season to start next spring.

I'd also like to thank Mr. Ed Arriola Jr. for his outstanding leadership on the MVA Destination Enhancement Committee, Marianas Visitors Authority, DPW and the CNMI government as a whole for securing the funds to rehabilitate both fields.

To the community, most especially softball and baseball players, lots of hours and expenses went into this phase of the project at no expense to any of us. I humbly ask that you join me in thanking these fine folks who made this possible. Let's show them our appreciation and support as the work is still far from being done.

Again, thank you, Tan Holdings.

Rose L. Igitol
President, Saipan Major League Baseball Association

AMERICA

From Page 10

New York City this day was flesh and blood humanity, with the humorous scene of ladies vying to crawl under the balls of the huge bull in the financial district, the Friday night people pouring out into the dining district on 3rd Ave. between 42nd and Central Park, and gourmands filling tables in defiance of the economic downturn going after diverse and immeasurable array of glocal gourmet. The neon gaiety of the theatre district beckoned. There has been a radical shattering of our shadowy worlds of illusions, indifference and ennui, exemplified by the aftermath of 9/11. In this nation formed under the dominant story of Abraham's sacrificial lamb as a necessary ingredient in the transformation of lives, it took towering infernos and countless lives to remind us that the choice is always ours, to pepper our waking hours with THANK YOUs, or to respond to the allure of venting our ego and personality itches unto the perceived shortages and inadequacies of others.

Billy Joel and Barbra Streisand croon the lyrics of the New York State of Mind song. Today, mine was in a state of affirmation and gratitude. Ground Zero in our New York state of mind, and the pulse beat of America, Obama-beaters notwithstanding, is decidedly leaning toward the big "Yes" to life. And the beat, the pulse beat goes on!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. North winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Damaging winds. West winds 30 to 40 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲85° ▼78°	▲85° ▼76°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°

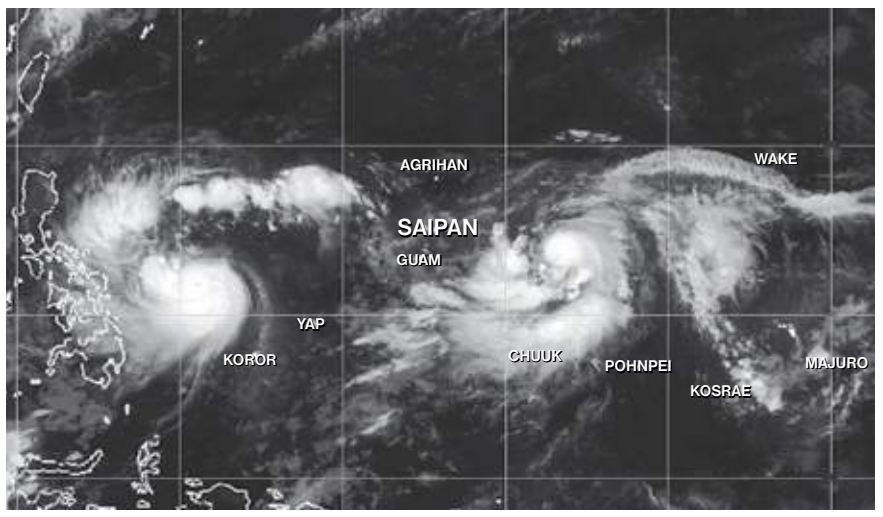
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲85	▼77
Palau	Sunny	▲86	▼78
Yap	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼77
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲88	▼75
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲89	▼79
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲66	▼58
Beijing	Sunny	▲79	▼54
Hong Kong	Showers	▲88	▼77
Honolulu	Showers	▲83	▼76
London	Cloudy	▲63	▼48
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲88	▼58
Manila	Showers	▲85	▼77
Melbourne	Showers	▲60	▼46
Miami	Thundershowers	▲88	▼77
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲68	▼59
Osaka	Rain	▲81	▼61
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲64	▼45
Pusan	Showers	▲77	▼54
Rome	Showers	▲74	▼58
Salem	Rain	▲63	▼44
San Francisco	Sunny	▲73	▼53
Seoul	Partly Sunny	▲72	▼50
Tokyo	Rain	▲75	▼66
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲75	▼63

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2009

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Super Typhoon Parma (19W) is centered northwest of Koror near 12N131E moving west-northwest at 17 mph with maximum sustained winds of 150 mph. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are found west of a line from 9N133E to 13N133E. For more detailed information, see National Weather Service advisories issued under WMO header WTPQ33 PGUM or JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN33 PGTW. Converging east winds into Super Typhoon Parma are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 125 miles of a line from 17N130E to 17N141E. Typhoon Melor (20W) is centered east-southeast of Saipan near 14N153E moving northwest at 6 mph with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph. Numerous showers and scattered thunderstorms are found within an area bounded by a line from 16N157E to 14N148E to 12N145E to 8N155E to 12N157E and back to 16N157E. See National Weather Service advisories issued under WMO header WTPQ34 PGUM or JTWC bulletins issued under WMO header WTPN34 PGTW. Convergent southwest winds are triggering scattered showers within an area bounded by a line from 10N142E to 3N142E to 3N144E to 10N146E and back to 10N142E. Trade-wind convergence is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Kosrae within an area bounded by a line from 17N158E to 4N166E to 7N170E to 8N170E to 10N163E to 16N164E back to 17N158E and east of the Marshall Islands between 6N and 12N from 177E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:27 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet
6:00 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:30 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
6:40 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:07 AM	6:06 PM
Saturday	6:07 AM	6:05 PM
Sunday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM
Monday	6:07 AM	6:04 PM
Tuesday	6:07 AM	6:03 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:38 PM	4:08 AM
Saturday	5:14 PM	4:56 AM
Sunday	5:52 PM	5:46 AM
Monday	6:32 PM	6:38 AM
Tuesday	7:16 PM	7:32 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 5, 6
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 (last DAILY flight leaves SPN Sep 26)

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW100	8:40pm	1:20am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 effective Oct 1

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7 (last DAILY flight leaves NGO Sep 26)

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

OAG prosecutes 23 persons in different cases

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has filed 21 criminal cases against 23 persons for allegedly committing various offenses.

Except for one that happened on Tinian, all cases occurred on Saipan, according to OAG in court documents.

The Tinian case involved Jayver Cepeda Cruz, 26, who is being charged with assault and battery. He allegedly pushed a woman to the ground and punched her several times on May 2, 2009.

In the Saipan cases, individuals being charged are Bernadita V. Manahane, Jemma Quitugua Manibo, Ryan Odicta, Glenn Taman Rios, Surella O. Rios, Michael Cabrera Sanchez, Faustino Ponciano Litulumar, Evelynn Mendiola Torres, Bertha Aguon Villagomez, Danny Tisa Daniel, Alfonso Sablan Palacios, George Momo Ucherbelau, and Adawayne Takawo Moses.

The other defendants are Augustine Manalo Norita, Vernalani Seman Mike, Remedio Seman, Francisco Cruz Angui, Virginia Margarit Castro, Steven Fred Urumelog, Jose Phillip Sablan, Roger Duenas Hernandez, and Maggie Marok Leon.

The OAG summoned all the defendants to appear and answer the charges in the Superior Court on Oct. 19, 2009, at 9am. Jayver Cruz was ordered to appear at the Tinian Superior Court. The remaining defendants were directed to appear at the Saipan Superior Court.

The OAG charged Manahane with obstruction of justice for allegedly contacting a victim in a criminal case and demanding that the victim drop the charges against her son on Sept. 18, 2009.

Manibo is charged with assault and battery and assault with a dangerous weapon. She allegedly assaulted a female person and hit a male individual with a pipe on April 13, 2009.

Odicta is facing two counts of assault and battery charges for allegedly assaulting two male persons on March 5, 2009.

In one case, Glenn Rios is charged with assault and battery, while Surella Rios is charged with assault with a dangerous weapon.

Glenn Rios allegedly punched a man, while Surella Rios injured the same victim with a knife on Jan. 18, 2009.

The government charged Sanchez with disturbing the peace, and assault and battery. He allegedly went to the residence of Nazrul Islam and began shouting at him on March 16, 2009. On March 20, 2009, the defendant also allegedly punched and pushed Islam repeatedly.

Litulumar is facing three counts of assault and battery. He allegedly slapped a female household member on the face on March 3, 2009. He also allegedly slapped the victim's face repeatedly, banged the victim's head against a tree and choked her on March 14, 2009. The defendant also allegedly chased the victim and pushed her forcibly up against a car and slapped her.

Torres is being charged with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon. She allegedly repeatedly hit with a stick and a hand saw a male household member on June 23, 2009.

The OAG charged Villagomez with assault and battery for allegedly hitting a male household member with a can of beer on the face on July 4, 2009.

Daniel is being charged with assault and battery, and assault with a dangerous weapon. He allegedly spat on the face of a female household member and threatened her with a knife on Dec. 17, 2008.

Palacios is facing assault and battery charge for allegedly slapping a female household member on June 26, 2009.

The government charged Ucherbelau with assault and battery for allegedly slapping a female household member on July 20, 2009.

The OAG charged Moses with two counts of disturbing the peace, and two counts of assault and battery. He allegedly interrogated a female household member about an imagined infidelity before physically assaulting her on July 12, 2009. The defendant also allegedly pushed the victim into her home, causing minor injuries, on Aug. 8, 2009.

Norita is charged with assault and battery for allegedly slapping a female household member on July 20, 2009.

In one case, Mike is charged with two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, and one count of criminal mischief. Seman is being charged with criminal mischief.

Mike allegedly attempted to run their car off the road with the vehicle that she was driving on July 20, 2009. Two household members were inside the car. That same day, he allegedly damaged a company car on its side with a hammer.

Seman allegedly damaged the same car belonging to Marfega Trading Co. by throwing a rock at the door on that same day.

The government charged Angui with disturbing the peace, assault and battery, and assault with a dangerous weapon. He allegedly assaulted a male household member and hit the victim with a large stick on March 9, 2009.

Castro is charged with assault and battery for allegedly repeatedly hitting a female household member on April 4, 2009.

Urumelog is charged with assault and battery for allegedly repeatedly slapping and punching a female household member on Jan. 1, 2009.

Sablan is charged with assault and battery, resisting arrest, and obstructing justice. He allegedly struck Police Officer John Cabrera with his hand as the officer was attempting to place him under arrest on Jan. 19, 2009.

Sablan also allegedly attempted to prevent the officers from conducting an interview of a victim in a domestic violence incident.

Hernandez is charged with criminal contempt and violating an order of protection. He allegedly continued sending text messages to a woman despite being prohibited from doing so on June 7, 2009.

The government charged Leon with assault and battery, and two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon. She allegedly repeatedly hit a male household member and struck him with a golf club and a crowbar on Feb. 14, 2009.

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30 percent rebate on appliances with Energy Star label

BY NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Energy Division of the Department of Public Works will be providing a 30-percent rebate on purchases of appliances with the Energy Star trademark.

This means those who buy appliances with an Energy Star label such as refrigerators, air conditioning units, radios and televisions will pay just 70 percent of the standard price of that product.

Energy Director Thelma Inos said the rebates would be part of the $30 million ARRA grant for sustainable energy programs for the CNMI.

"We are excited to implement the program," said Inos during the signing of a proclamation declaring Oct. 7, 2009, as "Energy Star: Change a Light" Day on Wednesday at the Governors' Office.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
Misty Conrad of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory presides over the third meeting of the interagency CNMI Energy Steering Committee at the Commonwealth Health Center last Wednesday.

Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos, who signed the proclamation, said this is the kind of assistance the government must give to constituents, especially in these trying times.

Later in the afternoon, the Energy Division gave updates on progress in the implementation of ARRA-funded programs before members of the interagency CNMI Steering Committee presided by Misty Conrad of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and Michael Mann, CNMI Program Manager from the Environmental Protection Agency (Region 9).

Wednesday's proclamation urged CNMI citizens to commit to saving energy and help voluntarily reduce greenhouse emissions by taking energy-saving actions in their homes.

"Energy efficiency is important to the Commonwealth, because it saves consumers and businesses money, and helps protect the environment by fighting global warming," the proclamation stated.

The event is part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's national "Change the World, Start with Energy Star" campaign.

The government is encouraging the public to enable their computer to power down when not in use, installing and using a programmable thermostat correctly with pre-programmed settings, and switching to Energy Star-qualified light bulbs and fixtures.

CPA projects 20 pct. revenue drop

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Projected revenues for the Commonwealth Ports Authority is expected to drop by 20 percent in Fiscal Year 2010, which began yesterday.

CPA comptroller Frances Mafnas said during Wednesday's meeting that the agency expects to generate just $10 million in revenues in the next 12-month period, compared to FY 2009, which recorded $11 million revenues.

As an autonomous agency, CPA functions and operates as a self-sustaining agency, paying for its personnel and operational costs out of its own pocket.

Mafnas said the low projection was a result of the pulling out of Continental Airlines' operation on island and the reduction of some flights from the existing signatory airlines.

To date, Asiana and Northwest are the only signatory airlines that pay fees to the ports authority.

During the deliberation, board members asked the management to be cautious when adding items to the new budget.

The board deferred voting on the adoption of the agency's FY 2010 budget for two weeks after it uncovered some "technical problems" in the proposed budget plan.

Board member Benigno Sablan made plain his dissatisfaction with the proposed budget and asked the management and the legal counsel to work on a finalized budget plan in two weeks.

"We're not satisfied with the preparation of the new budget and it would be best if our comptroller, in coordination with the legal counsel, will finalize it in two weeks' time," Sablan told the board.

Board member Fermin Sakisat also cited some items that he thinks should not be placed on the budget.

The chairman of the financial affairs committee, board member Barrie Toves, also disagreed with some entries in the proposed spending plan.

He described the allotted amount for Rota airport as "underfunded" and must be carefully reviewed by the management.

The CPA generates its income from fees collected from airlines, standing leases with tenants, parking systems, and other collections.

Computer courses for beginners

The Northern Marianas College, through the Division of Community Programs and Services' Community Development Institute, is offering short-term classes to interested individuals who wish to improve their computer application skills.

The classes, designed to improve individual knowledge and specific skills, are geared around actual workforce needs and experiences based on course surveys, community needs assessments, and interviews with employers.

The October/November schedule and course fees are listed below. For a more detailed description of each course, contact CDI at 234-5498 ext. 1005 or log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

- How to Properly Use a Keyboard (Keyboarding)
  October 5-9, 2009
  Schedule: Mon-Fri (5pm-7pm)
  Room: W-4
  Fee: $70
- Understanding Personal Computers (PCs) and How They Work
  October 13 &14, 2009
  (5pm-8pm)
  Room: W-4
  Fee: $35
- E-mail: The Best Way to Communicate
  October 15 &16, 2009
  (5pm-7pm)
  Room: W-4
  Fee: $25
- How to Use Word Processing Applications
  October 19-23, 2009
  Schedule: Mon-Fri (5pm-8pm)
  Room: W-4
  Fee: $90
- How to Use Spreadsheet Applications
  October 26-30, 2009
  Schedule: Mon-Fri (5pm-8pm)
  Room: W-4
  Fee: $90
- Creating Digital Presentations
  November 2-6, 2009
  Schedule: Mon-Fri (5pm-8pm)
  Room: W-4
  Fee: $90

The courses are offered as part of the college's mission to provide customized, continuing educational and professional development opportunities in response to community needs.

CDI will also be offering its Customer Service and Administrative Training Courses in November running into December. For a schedule of these classes, log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

It is recommended that all interested individuals register before the start of the first day of class. Certificates of attendance and competence will be awarded to registered students who complete all course requirements. Full payment is required for admission to a class. Full payment is required for admission to a class.

To register or for information about these classes, visit the CDI Office in Building P on the NMC Campus in As Terlaje or call Les Ogumoro-Uludong 234-5498 extension 1010 or e-mail logumoro@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

Sneak preview of Ken Burns' new film at AMP

Be part of an unprecedented event when War in the Pacific National Historical Park and national parks across the country invite you to make America's Best Idea—the national parks—even better. Presented by the National Park Service and National Park Foundation, it will be a special celebration for visitors and volunteers to experience their parks and catch a sneak preview of Ken Burns' new documentary *The National Parks: America's Best Idea* premiering on PBS Guam at 8pm Sunday, Oct. 11, through Friday, Oct. 16.

"We are excited about the opportunity to greet old friends and welcome new visitors to explain how American Memorial Park is part of America's Best Idea," said Superintendent Barbara Alberti. "Making that best idea even better is our goal and one we can only accomplish with the support of our visitors, volunteers, and partners."

To thank our volunteers, partners, and friends, the public is being invited to a "Movie in the Park" in the Visitor Center Theater on Beach Road, Garapan, Thursday, Oct. 10, at 6pm for a sneak preview of the new Ken Burns film *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*. Refreshments will be served by volunteers from the Mariana High School Honor Society.

The American Memorial Park event is just one of many occurring in national parks across the country. The nationwide program is cosponsored by the National Park Foundation (www.nationalparks.org), the National Park Service's Congressionally-chartered philanthropic partner.

For more information on the War in the Pacific NHP event, call Park Rangers at 670-234-7208. For park information, visit www.nps.gov/amme. ***(PR)***

Guam gets grant for sex assault services

GUAM—The Office of the Governor has received an award for $19,497 for its 2009 Sexual Assault Services Formula Grant Program, Grant ID Number 2009-KF-AX-0021, from the Office of Justice Programs, Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice. This is the third grant received in three months for a combined total of $1,332,911.

The money will be used primarily to provide support for Guam's only rape crisis center and other non-profit, non-governmental organizations for programs and activities that provide direct intervention and related assistance, which may include:

24-hour hotline services providing crisis intervention services and referral; accompaniment and advocacy through medical, criminal, and social support systems, including medical facilities, police, and court proceedings; or

feedback from victims and their families as they traverse the criminal justice system from disclosure to case resolution, etc. ***(PR)***

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2X4X20 REGULAR: $6.50
2X4X20 TREATED: $11.30

UTILITY LUMBER REGULAR	UTILITY LUMBER TREATED
2X4X12 - $3.40	2X4X12 - $3.40
2X4X14 - $3.90	2X4X14 - $3.90
2X4X16 - $4.50	2X4X16 - $7.70
2X4X18 - $5.00	2X4X18 - $8.80
2X4X20 - $6.10	2X4X20 - $9.60
2X6X12 - $6.70	2X6X12 - $10.00
2X6X14 - $7.60	2X6X14 - $11.00
2X6X16 - $8.90	2X6X16 - $13.00
2X6X18 - $9.90	2X6X18 - $14.50
2X6X20 - $10.90	2X6X20 - $10.90

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N/A	2007	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	20421	WHITE	ADW-292	12,399	
N/A	2007	COROLLA 4DR	AUTO	18092	RED	ACH-404	12,399	
N/A	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	29173	WHITE	ACD-727	11,499	
N/A	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	26200	WHITE	ACD-687	11,499	
N/A	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	25037	BLUE	ACG-450	11,499	
U09-071L	2007	YARIS 4DR	AUTO	55010	WHITE	ACE-246	10,999	
TOYOTA SUVS								
U09-072P	2002	RAV4 4X4 WAGON	AUTO	39484	BLUE	ABW-880	9,099	
GM CARS								
R07-034F	2005	OPTRA 4DR.	AUTO	14592	SILVER	ACD-020	~~10,999~~	7,499
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U09-073T	2001	NISSAN XTERRA WAGON	AUTO	75836	WHITE	ACU-661	6,999	
U09-045T	2003	VOLKSWAGEN NEW BEETLE 2DR	AUTO	48440	GREEN	ABX-844	~~6,999~~	5,999
GM VAN								
N/A	2007	CHEVY EXPRESS VAN 15-PAX	AUTO	55365	WHITE	BUS-1223	~~18,399~~	$17,499

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Public hearing on Route 36 set

The Department of Public Works will be hosting a public hearing about Route 36 (Chalan Kalabera/ Windward) Environmental Assessment. The public hearing is scheduled on Oct. 28, 2009, at 6pm, at the Coastal Resources Management Office conference room located at Morgen's building on Beach Road, San Jose. ***(PR)***

Covenant Precinct 3 fundraising postponed

This is to inform all individuals that the Covenant Party Precinct #3 Fundraising Event scheduled for Oct. 3, 2009, has been postponed until further notice due to the anticipated typhoon watch. Thank you for your understanding. Notice coming from the Covenant Party Precinct #3 Club. ***(PR)***

Tinian High SPED meeting set

This is to inform all parents who have children in the Special Education Program and interested individuals that there will be meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009, at THS cafeteria at 6:30pm. Please feel free to call Herman U. Hofschneider, Carla SanNicolas or Frances H. Diaz if you have any questions. ***(PR)***

Tinian High PTA meeting set

The Tinian High School PTA is inviting all parents/legal guardians to attend the special PTA meeting to be held on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009, at 7pm at the THS cafeteria. Your attendance is requested and your input is needed. Call Herman U. Hofschneider, Carla SanNicolas, Lynette I. Hofschneider, Rose Lazaro or Annie King if you have any questions or concerns regarding the meeting. ***(PR)***

Precinct 3 GOP BINGO Fundraiser postponed

This is to notify the public that due to the uncertainty of the weather condition, the Precinct 3 GOP BINGO Fundraiser set for Oct. 2, 2009, is hereby rescheduled to Oct. 16, 2009. Your cooperation and understanding is greatly appreciated. Should you need any further information regarding this matter, do not hesitate to contact the following individuals: Ana D. Castro at 287-1306; Cheryl D. Salalila at 285-6841; or BJ Attao 285-2826. ***(PR)***

CREAM to host mock polls

The Coalition for the Recognition, Equality and Advancement of American Minorities is inviting all American ethnic minority voters to participate in the mock elections for the CNMI gubernatorial race from 11am to 2pm on Oct. 4, 2009, at the Minachom Atdao. The top two candidates who will come out of the mock elections will be invited to the first-ever "The Great Gubernatorial Debate of 2009" sponsored by CREAM, which is slated tentatively for Oct. 18, 2009.

The debate aims to create a platform for the top two contenders where they can delve deeper into issues and provide an avenue for voters to make informed decisions during the gubernatorial elections on Nov. 4, 2009.

For suggestions on debate questions, e-mail Emy Pamintuan at rvepamintuan@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Veterans Day planning meeting

Nov. 11, 2009, Veterans Day, is a day to pay tribute and thank all who served and are serving today in the U.S. Armed Forces. The Veterans Day Committee will plan and execute this year's Veterans Day ceremony. If you are interested in being a part of this year's Veterans Day Committee, we will begin to meet every Tuesdays at 9am starting on Oct. 6, 2009, at the office of Military/ Veterans Affairs on Capital Hill building 1364. Everyone is encouraged and invited to attend. For more information, call 664-2650. ***(PR)***

Meeting of the Autism Society of the CNMI

The Autism Society of the CNMI will be holding its monthly meeting on Saturday, Oct. 10, 2009, at 10am at the NMPASI Conference Room. Information regarding the group and future meetings will be available at this meeting. All families and friends of individuals with autism and autism related spectrum disorders are invited to attend. For additional information, please call John at 234-8803/4 or Larrisa at 322-3761 or send an email to as_cnmi@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

Charter change group sets presentation

Citizens for Change of Article XII will be meeting with the Legislature on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009, at 10am in the House chamber. The group will delivering a presentation on the need to change Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution. ***(PR)***

Demapan to deliver State of Judiciary

Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan will be delivering the State of the Judiciary Address on Thursday, Oct. 15, 2009, at 10am in the Supreme Court Courtroom. To RSVP, no later than Friday, Oct. 9, call 236-9800 or email supreme.court@saipan.com. ***(PR)***

Saipan mayoral bets at Chamber meeting

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have it next general membership meeting on Oct. 7 at Pacific Islands Club – Charley's Cabaret. The group has invited all of the Saipan mayoral candidates to join Chamber members at this meeting and will provide them an opportunity to address members. The Chamber will be hosting senatorial and gubernatorial debates in October, but no mayoral debates. The Saipan mayoral candidates are Roman C. Benavente, Antonio M. Camacho, Juan S. Demapan, Donald Glenn Flores, Jose DLG. Sanchez, Candido B. Taman, Lino S. Tenorio, Marian DLG. Tudela, and Angelo O. Villagomez. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. The meeting is $15 for members, $20 for guests of members, and $25 for general public. ***(SCC)***

Notice to all candidates for political office

The Office of the Public Auditor will be conducting presentations on campaign finance and reporting on Saipan on Oct. 6, 2009, 5:30pm to 7:30pm, Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe.

Given the statutory restrictions relating to campaign spending and reporting, all candidates and their treasurers are strongly urged to attend. For more information, call OPA at 322-6481/2. ***(OPA)***

Hofschneider-Palacios on Chamorro radio talk show

Between 10am and 11am this Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009, on Magic 100.3, the Chamorro radio talk show program called "Marianas Agupa," hosted by Glenn H. Manglona, will feature the gubernatorial tandem of Rep. Heinz Hofschneider and Speaker Arnold Palacios.

Between 9:15am and 9:45am, Saipan mayoral candidate Candido Taman will be a guest on the show. The phone line at the radio station will be open for questions during the show. Tune in for more on Magic 100.3 FM this Saturday between 9am and 11am. Live Internet broadcast on www.magic100radio.com will also be available. ***(PR)***

Silent protest vs Afghanistan War

A group of concerned citizens are holding a silent protest against the Afghanistan War at the American Memorial Park, by the circle flags, every Friday, from 5pm to 5:30pm.

In a statement, the group said that since 2001, the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan has cost the lives of 834 American soldiers plus 569 coalition soldiers— 403 dead young soldiers. "In the first nine months of 2009, the war cost $61.3 billion with three more months to go this year, while millions of Americans have no health care insurance," the group said. "Support our soldiers, bring them home now. Stop the afghan war!"

The silent protest occurs every Friday, from Sept. 25, 2009, until Sept. 25, 2010. ***(PR)***

Marriage Encounter Weekend set

Help turn a good marriage into a great marriage through a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend! The CNMI's next Marriage Encounter Weekend will be on Oct. 16 – 18, 2009, at the Saipan Grand Hotel. Cost is $50 per couple. For further information or a registration form, contact any of the following:

- John & Carol Hosono (Tel: 286-4997; e-mail: johnhosono@gmail.com)
- Jun & Linda Pangelinan (Tel: 483-4111; e-mail: linpangelinan@gmail.com)
- John & Vicky Mafnas (Tel: 285-8454; e-mail: vbmafnas@yahoo.com)
- Fr. Ike Ayuyu (Tel: 234-8888; e-mail: ikeayuyu@gmail.com)
- Vince & Hilma Castro (Tel: 287-8089; e-mail: hilmacastrome@gmail.com)

'Blame it on the Cha Cha Cha' is rescheduled due to bad weather

The Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities is rescheduling its first cha cha dance fundraiser from today to Oct. 9, 2009, due to the inclement weather.

"As the event is at an outdoor facility, we feel it would be best to move it to next week as we are not certain about the approaching storm. We appreciate your understanding and continued support," said NMIHC Program Development Committee chair Janet King.

"Blame it on the Cha Cha Cha" will feature live music from Parker, Maggie Naputi and Burning Bush at the Saipan World Resort Jungle Stage from 5:30pm to 10:30pm.

It will also feature a Cha Cha contest, live performances all night long and a chance to help a great community organization. Tickets are $10 per person with a complimentary drink and will be available at the NMIHC office at the Spring's Plaza along Middle Road. Call 235-4785 for more information.

The Council is a private, non-profit, organization with 501(c) (3) status that has operated in the Commonwealth since 1991 and is eligible to receive Educational Tax Credit or ETC. Its mission is to foster awareness, understanding and appreciation of the humanities through support of educational programs that relate the humanities to the indigenous cultures and to the intellectual needs and interests of the people of the Commonwealth. ***(PR)***

BoH donates $25,000 to A. Samoa for tsunami relief

Bank of Hawaii pledged $25,000 yesterday to provide support for tsunami disaster relief assistance for families impacted by Wednesday's tsunami in American Samoa.

Al Landon, Bank of Hawaii chairman and CEO, said, "Our hearts go out to the people of American Samoa during this difficult time. We want to express our deepest sympathy to families who have lost loved ones."

Families or individuals can apply for donations up to $500. The bank will work with several community representatives to identify areas of immediate need. Those wishing to apply for funds can submit an application form available at a Bank of Hawaii branch.

Hobs Lowson, district manager for the bank's American Samoa operations, said, "This is a terrible disaster but the community is pulling together to help one another. This is going to take awhile, but everyone is working hard to help with restoration. Our goal will be to get the funds quickly into the hands of people who need it. This may include assistance for cleanup, repair and also bereavement.

The bank is making its Tafuna and Utulei (Centennial) branch facilities available for the staging and distribution of incoming supplies. Bank employees will be volunteering to help with distribution of goods. In Hawaii, donations are also being accepted at any branch of Bank of Hawaii and checks may be made out to: Bank of Hawaii American Samoa Relief Fund.

Bank of Hawaii has been serving American Samoa for 40 years and has branches in Utulei, Tafuna and Pava'ia'i. ***(BOH)***

4 Tinian beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on four beaches on Tinian and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or otherwise notified.

The affected sites are the Unai Dangkolo, Unai Babui, Leprosarium 1, and Leprosarium II beaches.

In an advisory issued yesterday, DEQ said that samples collected from these locations were found to contain excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzed samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 10 locations on Tinian this week.

Marine Water Quality Reports are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp/section.aspx?secID=4 and http://www.cnmicoralreef.net/wq/beachcloseweeklyresults.htm. Interested individuals and organizations can also receive e-mail notifications of the weekly marine water quality reports. To do so, send an e-mail to environment@deq.gov.mp.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any question. ***(DEQ)***

How is your baby growing?

If your child displays any of the following signs of possible developmental delay, talk to your doctor, nurse, or other health care provider about it:

Developmental Health Watch
19 Months to 2 Years (24 Months)

- Fails to develop a mature heel-toe walking pattern after several months of walking, or walks only on his toes
- Cannot climb onto and down from furniture unsupported
- Cannot recognize names of familiar people, objects, and body parts
- Does not speak at least 15 words
- Does not use two-word sentences by age 2
- Does not imitate actions or words by the end of this period
- Does not follow simple instructions by age 2
- Cannot find objects when hidden under 2 or 3 covers
- Cannot push a wheeled toy by age 2
- Experiences a dramatic loss of skills he or she once had

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

You may also contact the **Children's Developmental Assistance Center (C*DAC)** at **664-4830** for a **FREE** developmental screening!

Information adapted from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Learn the Signs. Act Early.
Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.

Big Steps for Little Feet

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STOCK # 1L419771
$7,995.00*

2006 Kia Sorento LX 4x4
STOCK # 65643378
$14,995.00*

2005 Kia Rio
STOCK # 56395736
$7,995.00*

2004 Nissan Maxima SE
STOCK # 4C920948
$18,995.00*

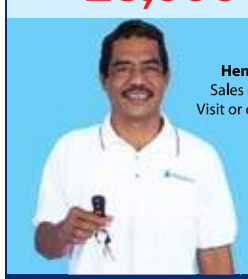
2004 Nissan Quest S
STOCK # 4N343991
$14,995.00*

2007 Kia Rio LX
STOCK # 6292373
$11,995.00*

SOLD
2006 Ford F-150 XLT 4x4
STOCK # 6KA88167
$23,995.00*

2004 Honda Element EX 4x4
STOCK # 4L003130
$14,995.00*

2007 Kia Rio LX
STOCK # 76210724
$11,995.00*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* Vehicles Certified with 61 point inspection.

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20K ballots printed for NMI general election

Close to 20,000 ballots are ready for the general election next month, according to the Commonwealth Election Commission.

Executive director Robert Guerrero confirmed yesterday that a total of 17,895 ballots were received last week and an additional 2,000 ballots are scheduled to arrive next week.

The large volume of ballots is in anticipation of the high turnout of voters on Nov. 7.

As of yesterday, CEC had a total of 16,152 registered voters in the Commonwealth.

"We're still getting off-island registered voters every day," Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

The law sets the deadline for the registration period on Sept. 18. However, applications postmarked on or before that date are still valid for registration.

Guerrero said they expect a 20-percent increase in the election turnout this year.

The commission spent about $14,000 for the first batch of printed ballots and $900 for the additional 2,000 ballots.

Guerrero said that four new machines were also delivered last week for the counting of ballots on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota

CEC paid $19,000 for the new machines, according to Guerrero. The new equipment will be added to the agency's two existing machines.

The governor earlier reprogrammed $50,000 in to cover for the initial expenses of the commission. Guerrero said an additional $60,000 to $80,000 is still needed. He said the governor is identifying some funds from the new budget for the needed amount.

There are 110 candidates vying for 40-plus seats in government next month. ***(Moneth Deposa)***

BAKE SALE

Members of the Northern Marianas College Criminal Justice Student Organization pose for a photo at their bake sale, which was held in the College's campus hallways. The student group is raising funds for a trip to the University of Guam to learn about criminal justice programs there that they can enroll in upon graduation from NMC.

NMC

NMC warns residents about degree mills

The Northern Marianas College is advising CNMI residents to become more vigilant as they explore their options for higher education. More particularly, residents are warned to watch out for institutions that qualify as what the U.S. Department of Education calls "degree mills."

According to the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, degree mills are usually universities or schools that offer questionable online degrees at a low cost with little or no work needed. The work assigned by such mills is usually unrelated to the degree being pursued.

These mills may also advertise that a person's life experience is sufficient for that person to be awarded a degree. These degrees are usually offered through overly-attractive deals, which is why many individuals fall for these traps. These mills also usually claim to be accredited by false accrediting bodies and agencies.

The U.S. Department of Education website at www.ed.gov has a list of all the accrediting agencies it recognizes.

"We want to ensure that our students who transfer to four-year universities are aware of and avoid these programs that offer degrees that hold no value," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "We also aim to inform employers of measures that can be taken to distinguish whether or not credentials submitted by prospective employees were awarded by degree mills."

Already, in the U.S. mainland, several ranking education and government officials have been asked to resign because their credentials were obtained from degree mills.

For example, Laura Callahan, a senior director at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security at the time, was reportedly asked to step down from her post in 2004 after the revelation that her credentials were received from a degree mill operating out of a motel room in Wyoming.

Degree mill Web sites usually emphasize the abnormal speed at which a prospective student may earn his or her degree (for example, 30 days) and usually charge tuition on a per-degree basis, instead of the traditional per-credit hour system. These colleges or universities also do not require prospective students to submit documents of academic history, such as transcripts and previous degrees earned.

Other signals that indicate that one is dealing with a degree mill include Web sites with domain registrations that limit access to visitors and degree programs that are not accepted for licensing or entry into graduate or professional programs in the degree mill's alleged home country.

"We would also like to advise the public to research schools that offer online degrees and the accrediting agency backing those schools, as these often hold names similar to prestigious schools and accrediting bodies," added Fernandez.

For more information on how to distinguish and avoid degree mills, log on to www.ed.gov or www.chea.org. ***(NMC)***

Revolving Restaurant 360
in cooperation with Budweiser
Friday Night Specials @ Beer Garden
Free Chasers 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm
Happy Hour all evening!!!
Featuring our new...
"Spanish Tapas with a Saipan Touch"
Enter to WIN every time you purchase a bucket of buds, or Sauza Margarita pitcher!
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SPANISH TAPAS
Tapas are a great variety of small appetizers, always served in larger service vessels then dished out to costumers, mostly at room temperature. Literally translated it means "cover", but chaser or "PuPu's" is the real perception.
Fish "En Escabeche"
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Jamon Serrano
Sardinas with Lemon
Baked Mussels
Banquet Promo @ 360
For Parents With Christening Or Birthday Celebrants.
360
Buffet selections at a very affordable rate, starting at $12.00 only. Great view, ample parking and excellent food and service. A minimum of 25-50 persons required.
SATURDAY's Prime Rib Night
Happy hour everyday from 5:00pm to 7:00pm
Greatly reduced prices on all alcoholic drinks!
(except bottled wine)
Join us and enjoy the Best Prime Rib on the Island!!!

$100K in retention reserve for CNMI labor bonding firms

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Commerce is proposing to set at $100,000 the minimum retention reserve for insurance companies' labor bonds, ban labor bonding firms with impaired capital from accessing retention reserves, and set new monthly reporting requirements to the CNMI insurance commissioner.

As of yesterday, insurance companies on Saipan have yet to see or review a copy of Commerce's proposed amendments to its own regulations governing insurance.

"We have yet to receive a copy of the proposal. Usually we receive a notification from Commerce," said Jenny Ariar, assistant manager at Royal Crown Insurance.

Tom Bernardo, senior underwriter at Aon Insurance Micronesia, and Gol Corpuz, operations manager at Century Insurance Co. Ltd., said they look forward to reviewing the proposed changes to insurance rules.

The proposed rules were published in the Sept. 28 Commonwealth Register, and copies of which were released yesterday.

Lillian Pangelinan, administrator for Banking and Insurance at Commerce, yesterday said that while the insurance regulations have been in place since 2005, they have not put a minimum amount on the retention reserve for insurance firms, among other things.

"What this does is also provide bonding companies the ability to tap into an established escrow account if and when the need arises," Pangelinan told Saipan Tribune when asked for comment.

Besides setting the minimum accumulated premium retention of $100,000 at all times, the proposed changes to Commerce rules provide for procedures for bonding companies to access premium retention funds to pay for wage, labor and repatriation claims by the director of the Division of Labor.

Bonding companies may be allowed to use the funds in escrow above the $100,000 threshold on certain conditions.

These include use for payment of wage, labor and repatriation bond claims as demanded by the director of Labor.

"Any attempt to request utilization of the escrow account for other than the intended purpose shall be denied and any fraudulent claims will result in the immediate suspension and/or revocation of an insurer's certification of authority," Commerce said.

The department also issued a proposed "Wage, Labor & Repatriation Claim Form" to request the use of the escrow funds.

Commerce also said that bonding companies with impaired capital based on their latest audited financial statements shall not be allowed to use the funds in escrow.

"Such companies shall be required to submit quarterly financial statements until the impairment is removed," Commerce said in its proposal.

Under the proposal, the insurance commissioner, at his discretion, may allow insurers subject to the labor bond premium retention requirement, to cease making additional deposits into the escrow account if the amount retained has reached $100,000.

Commerce's proposal also says that the insurance commissioner reserves the authority to raise the minimum labor premium retention value from $100,000 to a more appropriate amount if he or she believes that the existing threshold is insufficient to cover bond claims.

The department also clarifies that each insurer shall deposit "in an established escrow account" with a duly licensed bank in the CNMI, on a monthly basis, 10 percent of its premiums written each month on every surety or labor bond for nonresident workers starting in 2005 and an additional 5 percent of the labor-related exposure every year until it reaches 25 percent.

However, Commerce said the monthly deposit into the escrow account of 25 percent of the total nonresident worker labor-related premiums written shall continue "beyond" 2008.

This monthly deposit serves as security for the faithful performance of insurers' obligations.

The public has 30 days from Sept. 28 to comment on the proposed changes to Commerce rules. Comments should be sent to Commerce Secretary Michael J. Ada by hand-delivery, fax or e-mail.

Prisons chief sues Sen. Crisostimo, wife

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Department of Corrections Commissioner Dolores M. San Nicolas and two other persons have sued Saipan Sen. Luis P. Crisostimo and his wife over the alleged nonpayment of the balance for the purchase of a Garapan property.

San Nicolas, Patrick M. Arriola, and Estefania M. Arriola sued Crisostimo and his wife, Maria S. Crisostimo, for breach of contract and unjust enrichment.

The complainants, through counsel Michael W. Dotts, asked the Superior Court to order the Crisostimo couple to pay them damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

The plaintiffs also asked the court to declare that the warranty deed is null and void and that the Crisostimos have no right, claim to or title to the property.

Dotts stated in the complaint that in late 2008, San Nicolas and Sen. Crisostimo began negotiating over the purchase by the senator of 981 square meters of land in Garapan owned by the plaintiffs.

The price of $100,000 was initially agreed upon, according to Dotts.

The lawyer said that, between Oct. 23, 2008, and April 2008, Sen. Crisostimo made payments toward the purchase of the property. A total of $27,650 was paid during this time period, Dotts said.

In May 2009, the parties reduced their agreement in writing by executing a warranty deed.

Dotts said the warranty deed, drafted by the Crisostimo couple, recited that the consideration for the sale was $74,000 and implies that the $74,000 has already been paid.

"At the time the warranty deed was executed, plaintiffs had not been fully paid for their property," he said.

Dotts said that, between May 4, 2009 and Sept. 28, 2009, the Crisostimos made sporadic payments for what they owed for the purchase of the property.

During this time, Dotts said, the Crisostimos paid a total of $17,098.06.

He said the grand total the Crisostimos have paid is $44,758.06.

The property is subject to a lease to Marianas Seaside Development Corp. MSDS makes annual payments on the lease and the next payment is due on Oct. 15, 2009.

Dotts said the parties did not execute a document transferring the lease, but the defendants have made demand on MSDS to pay all rent for the property to the Crisostimos.

Despite repeated demands, Dotts said, the Crisostimos have failed to pay the $74,000 owed.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT
Happy birthday to Barnaby Quitugua Lizama III! You rock! With lots of love, Mom, Dad, AJ, Mari'Ann, Amma's, Ampa's, Ana and the entire family from Saipan, Honolulu, Illinois, Oregon, and DC.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Newborn Hearing Screening
Did you know that… Every baby born in the CNMI receives a hearing screening before leaving the hospital?
Ask if your baby passed the test. Babies learn to talk from what they hear…if your baby needs follow up, schedule your appointment right away.
Follow-up testing is FREE! Call 236-8709
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October
is Breast Cancer Awareness Month
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"The key to mammography is that you get it regularly – once is not enough."
This ad was brought to you by the Department of Public Health's Breast and Cervical Screening Program with 100% funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Business

GM to shut down Saturn after Penske walks away

AP

A dealership sign is reflected in the window of a Saturn Vue at Saturn of Tinley Park, Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2009 in Tinley Park, Ill.

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors Co. said Wednesday it would shut down its Saturn division after an agreement to sell it to Penske Automotive Group Inc. fell apart.

The Bloomfield, Mich. dealership headed by auto racing magnate Roger Penske walked away after it was unable to find a manufacturer to supply vehicles to it after a contract with GM runs out in 2011.

A tentative deal for Saturn was announced on June 5. Penske was to get Saturn's 371 dealers and promised to retain the 13,000 Saturn employees. The proposed price was never disclosed.

GM CEO Fritz Henderson said in statement that Saturn and its dealership network will be phased out.

"This is very disappointing news and comes after months of hard work by hundreds of dedicated employees and Saturn retailers who tried to make the new Saturn a reality," Henderson said in a written statement. Penske's announcement "explained that their decision was not based on interactions with GM or Saturn retailers."

Shares of Penske fell $1.92 or 10 percent to $17.26 in after hours trading. They rose $1.32, or 7.4 percent to $19.18 in regular trading Wednesday.

Economy sends numerous signals of rebound

WASHINGTON (AP)—Consumer spending, the bulwark of economic growth, is showing signs of life as the economy transitions from recession to recovery.

The key question is whether the spending rebound can be sustained while U.S. households face rising employment, tight credit conditions and other obstacles.

Economists believe that consumer spending, which accounts for about 70 percent of total economic activity, surged in August, reflecting the success of the government's Cash for Clunkers car rebate program.

While layoffs have slowed, they have not stopped, and many workers remain fearful about what the future holds. The Conference Board reported Tuesday that its widely watched barometer of consumer confidence dipped to a reading of 53.1 in September, from 54.5 in August, as Americans' worries about job security flared again.

The Commerce Department is scheduled to report on consumer spending for August on Thursday. In advance of that report, economists surveyed by Thomson Reuters expect that spending surged 1.1 percent, up from the 0.2 percent rise in July.

Next Bank of America CEO must rebuild firm's image

NEW YORK (AP)—Ken Lewis' legacy as CEO of Bank of America Corp. will likely be determined by whether his successor can do what Lewis couldn't: prove that the bank's messy acquisition of Merrill Lynch & Co. was worth the money.

Lewis

Bank of America said late Wednesday that Lewis, 62, will leave the company at year's end, a decision the bank said Lewis reached on his own. The move capped nearly a year of turmoil for the embattled CEO, who has endured withering attacks for his handling of the Merrill deal and is entangled in several state and federal probes into whether he and other bank executives misled shareholders by allowing the payment of billions of dollars in bonuses to Merrill employees.

The company did not announce a successor, saying one would be selected by the time Lewis steps down Dec. 31.

Analysts said a leading candidate is Brian Moynihan, head of the bank's consumer and small business banking unit. Moynihan joined Bank of America in 2004 through the bank's acquisition of FleetBoston Financial. He served as president of Bank of America's global wealth and investment management operation before taking on his current role.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Oil falls below $70 after surging overnight

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell below $70 a barrel Thursday in Asia after surging overnight on signs U.S. gasoline demand may be improving. Benchmark crude for November deliver was down 72 cents at $69.89 by midday in Singapore in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract jumped $3.90 to settle at $70.61 on Wednesday after the Energy Information Administration said U.S. gasoline stockpiles unexpectedly dropped 1.6 million barrels last week from the previous week. Analysts had expected a jump of 1.2 million barrels, according to a survey by Platts, the energy information arm of McGraw-Hill Cos.

LA Times, Washington Post breaking up news service

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The Los Angeles Times and The Washington Post are breaking up their news service after 47 years, making it the latest casualty of the media upheaval driven by the array of alternative information and entertainment sources on the Internet. The divorce announced Wednesday takes effect Jan. 1. Beginning then, the Los Angeles Times will distribute some of its best work through a news service jointly owned by newspaper publishers McClatchy Co. and the Tribune Co., the Times' owner. The Tribune Co. has been operating under Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection since December. The financial duress before and after the bankruptcy filing led to staff cutbacks at the Times and the Tribune's other newspapers, including The Baltimore Sun and Hartford Courant, whose stories also were distributed through the Times-Post venture.

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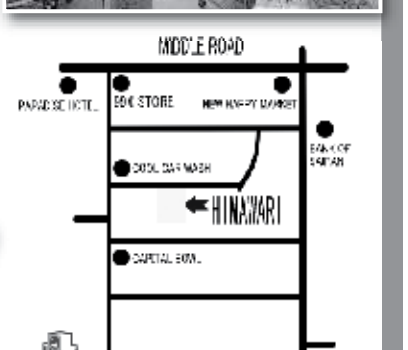

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Patient educator will help you learn new ways to cope with diabetes & complications
• *If you have diabetes you are at high risk of developing a foot wound that could possibly lead to an AMPUTATION.*

Proposed CNMI Strategy to Support the Military Buildup for Local Benefit Public Involvement Meeting

A Public Meeting will be held to discuss findings regarding how the CNMI can better utilize its resources to support the military during the build-up on Guam and ensuring long term benefits to the CNMI. The goal of the meeting is to gain public feedback to help shape a support strategy. This meeting will be held on **Saipan October 5th, at the Multi Purpose Center starting at 7:00PM.** Then, another meeting held on **Tinian October 6th, at the Tinian Public School, starting at 7:00PM.**

For those who cannot attend, we welcome your written comments sent to either:
igisomar@gmail.com
or
CNMI.Proposed.Strategies@gmail.com

Nation

Democrat says GOP wants sick to just 'die quickly'

WASHINGTON (AP)—House Republicans say it's payback time for the recent reprimand of one of their own for heckling President Barack Obama. They want a Democratic lawmaker to apologize or face a reprimand for saying the GOP wants Americans to "die quickly" if they get sick.

Rep. Alan Grayson, D-Fla.—a first-term congressman known for a provocative style—refused to back down on Wednesday.

As Republicans threatened to introduce a resolution disapproving of his remarks, he returned to the House floor and mocked their outrage by citing research showing that nearly 45,000 people die each year for lack of health insurance.

"I would like to apologize ... I apologize to the dead and their families that we haven't voted sooner to end this holocaust in America," he said, citing a study being published in the American Journal of Public Health.

Grayson's initial remarks came Tuesday night as he criticized Republican health care proposals as a "blank piece of paper."

"If you get sick, America, the Republican health care plan is this: Die quickly," he said on the House floor. "That's right. The Republicans want you to die quickly if you get sick."

AP

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif. gestures during her weekly news conference on Capitol Hill in Washington, Thursday, Sept. 24, 2009.

The rhetoric wasn't spontaneous: He reinforced his point with signs saying the same thing.

Republicans immediately called for an apology, likening the comments to Rep. Joe Wilson's widely criticized shout of "You lie!" during President Barack Obama's address to Congress earlier this month.

Seeking payback from the Democratic-led scolding of Wilson earlier this month, they say Democrats should at least insist that Grayson apologize just as they insisted Wilson, R-S.C., should.

Health bill survives attacks—vote by week's end?

WASHINGTON (AP)—A White House-backed overhaul of the nation's health care system weathered repeated challenges from Republican critics over taxes, abortion and more on Wednesday, and the bill's architect claimed enough votes to push it through the Senate Finance Committee as early as week's end.

"We're coming to closure," said Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., the committee chairman, as President Barack Obama lobbied at least one wavering Democrat by phone to swing behind the measure.

Baucus said, "It's clear to me we're going to get it passed," although he sidestepped a question about possible Republican support. Olympia Snowe of Maine is the only GOP senator whose vote is in doubt, and she has yet to tip her hand. While she has voted with Democrats on some key tests—to allow the government to dictate the types of coverage that must be included in insurance policies, for example—she has also sided with fellow Republicans on other contentious issues.

In a reflection of the intensity on both sides of the Capitol, Democratic Rep. Alan Grayson of Florida was unrepentant after claiming the Republican plan for health care was for Americans to "die quickly." Refusing to apologize, he said, "People like elected officials with guts who say what they mean. ... I stand by what I said."

That controversy aside, House Democratic leaders struggled to reduce their legislation to the $900 billion, 10-year cost that Obama has specified. Officials said numerous alternatives were under review to reduce subsidies that are designed to defray the cost of insurance for millions.

Partial government shutdown, no budget in Michigan

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—One of the nation's most economically battered states remained without a budget and stumbled into a partial government shutdown Thursday as Michigan lawmakers failed to agree on a spending plan.

A deal to fill a nearly $3 billion shortfall with federal recovery dollars and more than $1 billion in cuts fell through, as many lawmakers discovered they couldn't stomach deep cuts to schools and local services such as police and fire protection in the stricken state.

They also failed to finalize a temporary budget and avert Michigan's second shutdown since 2007.

Secretary of State offices were set to close Thursday and state parks prepared to ask visitors to leave if the impasse remained when state workers were supposed to report for work. Essential services such as state police and prisons were to remain running.

"We have taken steps to put a shutdown in place," Liz Boyd, a spokeswoman for Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm, said shortly after midnight. But the governor's office was waiting on a possible resolution from the Legislature to keep government running before state offices were to open Thursday.

ACROSS THE NATION

FBI denies editing Oklahoma City bombing tapes

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—The FBI says it did not edit videotapes of the aftermath of the 1995 bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building before turning them over to an attorney who is conducting an unofficial inquiry into the bombing. The FBI turned over more than two dozen tapes taken from security cameras on buildings and other locations around the federal building to Salt Lake City attorney Jesse Trentadue, who obtained them through the federal Freedom of Information Act. Trentadue said the tapes are blank at various times in the minutes before the blast. "They have been edited," Trentadue said Wednesday. The soundless recordings show people rushing from nearby buildings immediately after a 4,000 pound fertilizer-and-fuel-oil bomb detonated in front of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building on April 19, 1995, killing 168 people, including 19 children, and injuring hundreds more.

Ariz. man makes surprise confessions in 2 killings

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP)—An Arizona man being held on a murder charge made surprise confessions in two other killings, and told authorities he would have continued on a vigilante-style killing spree if he hadn't been caught, authorities said Wednesday. William Inmon of the rural eastern Arizona town of Springerville is among four people charged in the death of 16-year-old Ricky Flores from nearby St. Johns. Flores' body was found burned and buried in a shallow grave two weeks after his mother reported him missing on Aug. 14. Inmon, 21, pleaded guilty to that slaying and confessed to the separate shooting deaths of 60-year-old Daniel Achten and 72-year-old William "Stoney" McCarragher, Apache County Attorney Michael Whiting said.

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA# 09-015A **CLOSING DATE: October 9, 2009**

The NMI Retirement Fund has a job vacancy for an Internal Auditor, starting salary range $24,889.35 – $42,558.00 (Pay Level 32). Interested individuals may pick up an application and the complete Position Description from the NMI Retirement Fund, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or may e-mail a request for a packet to **administrator01@nmiretirement.com.**

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SALE

UNDER POWER OF SALE IN DEED OF TRUST

William S. Pangelinan and Diana C. Pangelinan (collectively "Trustor"), on or about February 25, 1985, gave and delivered to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation ("Trustee"), acting on behalf of the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development Office ("USDA"), formerly known as Farmers Home Administration, United States of America ("FmHA"), a Deed of Trust upon certain real property hereinafter described, which Deed of Trust was recorded on February 27, 1985 under Document No. 85-0479 to secure payment of a Promissory Note of the Trustor to the Trustee, acting on behalf of the USDA, Rural Development Office.

The Deed of Trust and this Notice of Sale affect the property hereafter described:

Lot No. 005 I 124, containing an area of 1,092 square meters, more or less, as shown on Cadastral Plat No. 005 I 02, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 16707 on March 11, 1983, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

The Trustor has defaulted on payment of the Note secured by the Deed of Trust, and by reason of said default, Trustee issued its Notice of Default and served to Trustor on June 12, 2009. More than thirty (30) days have passed since the default notice was served on Trustor and said default has not been cured.

Pursuant to 2 CMC § 4622(b)(2), NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Trustee will, on October 30, 2009 at 10:00 a.m., at the office of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, Garapan, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, under power of sale contained in the Deed of Trust, sell the above described parcel of real property at public auction to the highest qualified bidder, to satisfy the obligations secured by said Deed of Trust. The minimum bid offer shall be not less than **$36,730.00**. Sealed bids will be opened at the auction and those present will be given the opportunity to submit an additional bid, thereby, outbidding the highest sealed bid amount received by NMHC and opened on the date of the auction.

Sealed bids must be addressed to Ms. Merced M. Tomokane, Chairwoman of the Board, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P. O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950 and must also be received no later than **October 29, 2009, at 4:00 p.m. All bids received from outside the Commonwealth must be received no later than October 29, 2009 at 4:00 p.m. Untimely sealed bids will be rejected.**

The sale shall be without warranty as to the title or interest to be conveyed or as to the property under the Deed of Trust, other than that the Trustee is the lawful holder of such Deed of Trust. The purchase price shall be payable by cash, certified check or cashier's check to NMHC and shall be paid within three (3) working days from time of sale.

Trustee reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to cancel or extend the date, time and place for sale of such property. Any prospective buyer must be a person authorized by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to hold title to real property in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 29th day of October, 2009.

/S/JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO
Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
Procurement and Installation of Standby Generator and Building
Port of Saipan
Project No. CPA-SS-002-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA), through a grant from the Office of Homeland Security, is requesting for proposals for design/build services for procurement and installation of one (1) brand new generator with controls, housing and fuel tank to be situated at the Port of Saipan.

A detailed scope of work will be available at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building on Friday, September 11, 2009. All responses to this RFP shall also take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the contract for the project, including excise tax.

The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Project timeframe;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License; and
- Proof of insurance.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on **Friday, September 25, 2009 at 3:00 pm** at the Conference Room at the CPA Seaport Administrative Building. The project scope of work and location of the generator will be discussed. Attendance at this conference is mandatory for all companies interested in submitting proposals.

The contract period for design, installation and testing will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of $500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, October 16, 2009.**

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com no later than Oct. 9, 2009.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: September 9, 2009

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

1ST AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
for the Procurement and Installation of a Non-Directional (Rotating) Beacon
at the Tinian International Airport

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies to procure and install a brand new non-directional (rotating) beacon at the Tinian International Airport. Proposals are to include procurement, installation and testing of the new beacon with a 1-year warranty and 1-year preventive maintenance services. Beacon specifications are as follows with all new components:

- No less than sixty feet (60') high;
- Must withstand at least 190 MPH winds;
- Have a 1.5 gust factor;
- Include a climbing device and basket tower;
- Include a beacon light with 120 VAC, lens, pulse start, obstruction lights, lightning rod; and
- Installation of electrical including new wiring, splicing and breaker.

All requirements under FAA Advisory Circular 150/5345-12E, "Specifications for Airport and Heliport Beacons" must be adhered to during the procurement and installation of this equipment.

Furthermore, included in the work is the removal and complete disposal of the existing tower. Disposal site is the responsibility of the contractors but it must be located outside CPA's property.

The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Project timeframe;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License; and
- Proof of insurance.

A walk-through inspection will be conducted on **Friday, September 25, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.** in order to assess the area and determine equipment and materials needed for the installation. Attendance at this walkthrough is mandatory for any companies interested in submitting proposals. Prospective proposers will meet at the office of the Tinian Ports Manager at the Tinian International Airport on the date and time mentioned above.

The contract period for design and replacement will be based on the contractor's proposal. However, liquidated damages of $500.00 shall be assessed the contractor for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without excuse.

All proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, October 9, 2009.**

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: September 15, 2009

Asia

Strong Indonesia quake kills hundreds, traps more

PADANG, Indonesia (AP)—A powerful earthquake that struck western Indonesia trapped thousands of people under collapsed buildings—including hospitals, a hotel and a classroom, officials said. At least 200 bodies were found in one coastal city and the toll was expected to be far higher.

The temblor Wednesday started fires, severed roads and cut off power and communications to Padang, a coastal city of 900,000 on Sumatra island. Thousands fled in panic, fearing a tsunami.

The undersea quake of 7.6 magnitude was followed by a powerful, shallow inland earthquake on Thursday morning with a preliminary magnitude of 6.8, the U.S. Geological Survey said. It hit about 150 miles (240 kilometers) south of Padang at a depth of just 24 kilometers (under 20 miles).

Shallow, inland earthquakes generally are more destructive, but there were no immediate reports of damage or injures.

On Wednesday, buildings had swayed hundreds of miles (kilometers) away in neighboring Malaysia and Singapore.

In Padang, the capital of West Sumatra province, the shaking was so intense that people crouched or sat on the street to avoid falling. Children screamed as an exodus of thousands tried to get away from the coast in cars and motorbikes, honking horns.

AP

A man walks past by a building damaged by earthquake in Padang, West Sumatra, Indonesia, Thursday, Oct. 1, 2009. A

At least 500 buildings in Padang collapsed or were badly damaged, said Disaster Management Agency spokesman Priyadi Kardono, adding that 200 bodies had been pulled from the rubble there. The extent of damage in surrounding areas was still unclear due to poor communications, he said.

Padang's mayor appealed for assistance on Indonesian radio station el-Shinta.

"We are overwhelmed with victims and ... lack of clean water, electricity and telecommunications," Mayor Fauzi Bahar said. "We really need help. We call on people to come to Padang to evacuate bodies and help the injured."

Hundreds of people were trapped under collapsed buildings in Padang alone, including a four-star hotel, he said. Other collapsed or seriously damaged buildings included hospitals, mosques, a school and a mall.

Thousands were believed trapped throughout the province, said Rustam Pakaya, head of the Health Ministry's crisis center.

Ketsana leaves more than 300 dead across SE Asia

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—One of the most destructive storms in years extended its deadly path across Southeast Asia, blowing down wooden villages in Cambodia and crushing Vietnamese houses under mudslides after submerging much of the Philippine capital.

The death toll Wednesday climbed to 331 and was still rising.

"We're used to storms that sweep away one or two houses. But I've never seen a storm this strong," said Nam Tum, governor of Cambodia's Kampong Thom province.

The immediate threat eased as Typhoon Ketsana was downgraded to a tropical depression as it crossed Wednesday into a fourth nation, Laos. But its powerful winds and pummeling rain left a snaking trail of destruction.

AP

A flooded area is seen in this aerial view near Danang, Vietnam, Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2009, after Typhoon Ketsana passed.

Landslides triggered by the storm slammed into houses in central Vietnam on Tuesday, burying people including five members of the same family, the government said. The country's toll rose to 74 as officials recovered more bodies from the muck and swollen rivers, with 179 injured and a dozen missing, the government said late Wednesday.

It said the storm destroyed or damaged nearly 180,000 homes, inundated 150,000 more, and flattened crops across central Vietnam. More than 350,000 people were evacuated from the typhoon's path, posing a logistical headache to shelter and feed them.

Obama's war council divided on Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama summoned his war council to the White House Situation Room on Wednesday for an intense, three-hour discussion that exposed emerging fault lines over Afghanistan—with military commanders pressing for more troops and other advisers expressing skepticism.

There was no discussion of specific troop levels during the meeting in the West Wing basement, according to a senior administration official. But the talks underscored the divisions throughout Obama's inner circle that must be navigated in the coming weeks, the official said.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton and special Afghan and Pakistan envoy Richard Holbrooke appeared to be leaning toward supporting a troop increase, said the official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the discussions were private. The official, who attended the meeting, based the assessment on the tone and substance of their participation.

White House Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel and Gen. James Jones, Obama's national security adviser, appeared to be skeptical of troop increases, the official said. Vice President Joe Biden, who attended the meeting, has been reluctant to support a troop increase, favoring a strategy that directly targets al-Qaida fighters who are believed to be hiding in Pakistan.

No firm or final recommendations were offered to Obama, the official said, suggesting that views were still evolving.

The differences are not new and they were aired civilly in the meeting, the official said. But for most of Obama's advisers, this was the first time they exchanged views in person—rather than via official channels and media leaks—and in a large group that included the president.

The meeting, the second of at least five Obama has planned as he reviews his Afghanistan strategy, comes after Obama received a critical assessment of the war effort from Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the man he put in charge of the Afghan war earlier this year. McChrystal declared that the U.S. would fail to meet its objectives of causing irreparable damage to Taliban militants and their al-Qaida allies if the administration did not significantly increase American forces.

SKorean leader urges strong army, citing threat

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—President Lee Myung-bak said Thursday that South Korea should strengthen its armed forces to cope with a continuing nuclear threat from North Korea despite recent conciliatory gestures.

After raising tensions with nuclear and missile tests earlier this year, North Korea released several American and South Korean detainees, announced it would resume joint projects with Seoul and offered direct talks with the U.S.

Seoul and Washington are studying the offers but have shown no signs of easing pressure on North Korea to disarm through U.N. sanctions imposed after its May nuclear test.

Lee warned that North Korea's nuclear program continues to threaten stability on the Korean peninsula, and South Korea must not "let its guard down at any time."

"It's true that we need a dialogue with North Korea," Lee said in a televised speech marking Armed Forces Day. But he added, "South-North Korean dialogue and peace will be advanced when we have a strong military with a firm readiness."

ASIAN BRIEFS

China's 60th anniversary stirs pride, also unease

BEIJING (AP)—China celebrated its rise to a world power over 60 years of Communist rule Thursday, staging its biggest-ever parade of military hardware with over 100,000 marching masses in a display that stirred patriotism—and some unease. Police blocked off a wide area around central Beijing's Tiananmen Square for the 60th anniversary of the People's Republic. People were told to stay away and watch the events on television, though that did not dampen a festive air as residents gathered in homes and alleys. President Hu Jintao, dressed in a gray Mao tunic instead of the business suit he usually wears, reviewed the thousands of troops and hundreds of tanks and other weaponry, shouting "Hello, comrades" while riding in an open-top, domestically made Red Flag limousine.

Search for captured US soldier yields few clues

KABUL (AP)—The troops hunting for the young private have little to go on: He disappeared near the border with Pakistan, his Taliban captors released a propaganda video of him two weeks later, downcast and frightened. Then, at least publicly, nothing about the only U.S. soldier missing in the Afghan war. U.S. military officials in Afghanistan say they are still searching for 23-year-old Pfc. Bowe R. Bergdahl, who disappeared June 30 - three months ago on Wednesday - but they reveal little else for fear of jeopardizing the search or his safety. Advanced intelligence gathering aircraft are being used for the hunt, but it's not even clear if Bergdahl is being held in Afghanistan or Pakistan. There has been no public update on the Hailey, Idaho, native since his captors posted the video of him in mid-July.

31 die as tourist boat capsizes in southern India

NEW DELHI (AP)—A boat carrying 74 tourists capsized on a reservoir in southern India on Wednesday, killing at least 31 people and leaving dozens missing, police said. The state-owned boat was traveling in the remote Thekkady forest area in Kerala state and capsized after the tourists rushed to one side as they spotted some elephants in a wildlife sanctuary, tilting the vessel over, said police officer R. Rajesh. Rescuers have fished out 31 bodies from the reservoir and were looking for 23 other missing tourists, police officer Rajesh told The Associated Press. Rajesh also said 20 people have been rescued so far and taken to the hospital. However, the Press Trust of India news agency quoted a district official as saying that 40 people were either rescued or they swam ashore and another three were missing.

World

West goes to Iran talks–and readies sanctions

GENEVA (AP)—The U.S. and five other world powers go to the table with Iran on Thursday to demand a freeze of its nuclear activities, and a senior U.S. official said Washington may seek rare face-to-face talks with Iranian diplomats.

Even as they prepared for Thursday's talks, the U.S. and its allies were contemplating new and tighter sanctions on Tehran, in a clear signal of expectations that the negotiations may again end in failure.

U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton suggested all six—the five permanent U.N. Security Council members and Germany—were of one mind on the need for Iran to meet international concerns on its refusal to stop uranium enrichment and heed other U.N. Security Council demands.

Clinton

"We support what the international community has said with a unified voice," she told reporters at the United Nations.

Iran's choice, she said, is to agree to measures that "would guarantee that what they're doing is solely for peaceful purposes—and the alternative track, which is greater isolation and international pressure."

With the stakes raised by Tehran's revelation last week of a secret uranium enrichment site, a move by the U.S. to break precedent and meet directly with Iran would reflect the Obama administration's determination to get results at Thursday's gathering.

Briefing reporters in Geneva, a senior U.S. official raised the possibility of a meeting between the Americans, represented by William Burns, the under secretary of state for political affairs, and Iran's chief negotiator Saeed Jalili. He spoke on condition of anonymity because of the private nature of the talks.

EU report: Georgian attack started war with Russia

BRUSSELS (AP)—Georgia and Russia both claimed to find vindication in Wednesday's independent report on the causes of their 2008 war, but neither seemed likely to be able to take the moral high ground because of its blunt judgments.

The EU-sponsored report supports Russia's insistence that Georgia launched the short but intense war with an indiscriminate rocket and artillery barrage on the separatist capital of South Ossetia—an act the commission said was not justifiable under international law.

Georgia can find support for its claim that Russia taunted and provoked it for years before the assault, then responded with disproportionate force, sending armored vehicles deep into undisputed Georgian territory.

Russia's retaliation went "far beyond the reasonable limits of defense," the report said, rejecting claims the country was trying to prevent genocide with its invasion of its southern neighbor, a former Soviet nation with fervent hopes of joining the EU and NATO.

The beginnings of the August 2008 war had been murky, its aftermath contentious.

It ended in less than a week with Russia crushing Georgia's army and driving its troops out of the separatist Georgian region of South Ossetia and away from the borders of another such region, Abkhazia.

Honduran power brokers pushing for end to crisis

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Business and political leaders who backed the coup overthrowing President Manuel Zelaya now are considering the unthinkable: returning him to office with limited powers.

The reversal, and Zelaya's decision to consider it, reflect the growing desperation to resolve a three-month standoff that has turned this Central American country upside down.

John Biehl, special adviser to the Organization of American States, said Wednesday he sensed some movement toward talks.

"The moment has arrived for tempers to cool and reason to reign, and that's when errors will start being corrected," Biehl said. "I have found a strong willingness for dialogue," adding he had heard of proposals to return Zelaya to office briefly.

An advance team of the OAS is scheduled to arrive in Tegucigalpa on Friday to promote negotiations ahead of a visit by a delegation of foreign ministers from member nations next week.

In an attempt to return to normality, the interim government announced Wednesday it was dropping the nighttime curfew in force since Zelaya sneaked back into the country Sept. 21 and then took refuge at the Brazilian Embassy and called on his followers to rally against the government.

"There will be no curfew tonight, something that will please Hondurans," police spokesman Orlin Cerrato told local media.

WORLD BRIEFS

US diplomat met with Cuban dissidents in Havana

HAVANA (AP)—A senior U.S. diplomat who traveled to Havana for the highest-level talks with Cuban officials in decades also met with opposition activists to discuss their political views, three dissidents and a State Department official said Wednesday. Bisa Williams, the U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere affairs, met with 15 prominent dissidents during a Sept. 21 lunch at the U.S. Interests Section, America's diplomatic mission in Cuba, three of them told The Associated Press. Elizardo Sanchez, Martha Beatriz Roque and Vladimiro Roca all have spent time in jail for their political views. Williams asked the dissidents about U.S.-Cuba relations, and pressed for details of their lives in a country with one political party and a history of intolerance toward dissent, they said.

Students lift days-long hunger strike in Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—More than 150 Venezuelan university students ended a hunger strike Wednesday after the Organization of American States agreed to hear their concerns over alleged political persecution by President Hugo Chavez's government, a protest leader said. The strike began last Thursday when 10 students set up cots outside the Washington-based organization's office in Caracas and vowed to consume only water until its Inter-American Commission of Human Rights promised to launch a probe. Some students sewed their mouths shut. At least six abandoned the strike earlier Wednesday to seek medical treatment, said Angel Arellano, a student who participated in the protest.

Ecuador: 1 dead, at least 49 wounded in protest

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—Police on Wednesday battled Amazon Indians protesting laws they believe would encourage oil drilling and mining on their lands, leaving one Indian dead and 40 police and nine Indians wounded, officials said. Indians said two civilians were killed. "Tremendously violent groups armed with shotguns and rifles waited for police and met them with gunshots," President Rafael Correa said in a late news conference. The clash took place on the Upano River in Ecuador's southeastern Morona Santiago jungle province where Indian groups have been blocking roads this week. Correa, a popular leftist president, blamed the Indians for the bloodshed and repeated his call for dialogue to resolve the Indians' complaints.

Kenya, Ethiopia authorities seize ivory stash

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)—Authorities in Ethiopia and Kenya have seized more than 2,600 pounds (1,200 kilograms) of bloodstained ivory from about 100 illegally killed elephants at airports, the head of Kenya's Wildlife Service said Wednesday. Julius Kipng'etich said trained dogs sniffed out a consignment of bloodstained tusks at Kenya's national airport late Tuesday. Another shipment of tusks sent by the same individual had been seized Monday at the airport in Ethiopia's capital. Both shipments were sent as unaccompanied luggage to Bangkok. Police have launched an investigation and wildlife officials said they will continue to patrol the airport with dogs.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
SITE EVALUATION SERVICES

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
AIRCRAFT RESCUE FIRE FIGHTING (ARFF) TRAINING FACILITY
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-011-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Site Evaluation Services.

The general scope of work is for site evaluation services of the existing facility for the development of design parameters and a scope of work to be used for Architectural/Engineering Design work to follow for the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Training Facility at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

*Note: The selected consultant will **NOT** be allowed to participate in the Architectural/Engineering Design services for the ARFF Training Facility improvements being advertised concurrently.*

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. A/E Design experience related to projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);
2. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants;
3. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
4. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Monday, October 19, 2009.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO
Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Date: September 18, 2009

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
AIRCRAFT RESCUE FIRE FIGHTING (ARFF) TRAINING FACILITY
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-012-09

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services.

The general scope of work is for A/E design services for the renovation and expansion of the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Training Facility at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

*Note: The selected consultant will **NOT** be allowed to participate in the Site Evaluation services for the ARFF Training Facility improvements being advertised concurrently.*

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall A/E design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. A/E Design experience related to projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);
3. Level of proficiency in performing A/E services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of A/E work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, October 30, 2009.**

Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330. Only firms who have established an office in the Commonwealth and a valid business license will be considered.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:
Mr. Efrain F. Camacho, PE
Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO
Executive Director/Contracting Officer
Date: September 18, 2009

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

Tinian Harbor Improvements
CPA-TS-001-09

2nd AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals to repair certain features to the dock at the Tinian Harbor. A detailed scope of work will be available at the office of the Executive Office on Thursday, September 3, 2009.

The proposals shall include the following:

- Letter of Interest;
- Project timeframe;
- Available resources to accomplish project;
- Cost Proposal (in itemized scope of work format);
- Valid CNMI Business License; and
- Proof of insurance.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: ***"Proposal for Improvements at the Tinian Harbor, CPA-TS-001-09"***. The proposal must be submitted no later than **4:30 p.m., Friday, October 30, 2009**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

*Note: An amendment is made to the scope of work, under the section of **"Construction/Modification Works"**, whereas the contractor will be responsible for installation ONLY of the fenders. However, mounting hardware will be the responsibility of the contractor and should be included in the proposal.*

Procurement of fenders will be made by Mobil Oil Micronesia. Contractor will also consult with Mobil Oil Micronesia on the tie down requirements, such as chain and shackles.

Questions will be accepted until October 2, 2009 and are to be submitted in writing to the office of the Executive Director or emailed to cpa.admin@pticom.com.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at ~~10:00 a.m. on Friday, September 25, 2009~~ at the office of the Tinian Ports Manager at the Tinian International Airport. Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory and only contractors present at the pre-proposal meeting will be allowed to submit proposals.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 3.6. CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director/Contracting Officer

Date: October 1, 2009

Off the Wall

Bangladesh awards farmer who killed 83,000 rats

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)—Bangladesh on Wednesday awarded a farmer who killed more than 83,000 rats and launched a monthlong campaign nationwide to kill millions more, to protect crops and reduce the need for food imports. Mokhairul Islam, 40, won a first prize of a color television for killing some 83,450 rats in the past nine months in Gazipur district near the South Asian country's capital, Dhaka. He collected their tails for proof.

"I am so happy to get this honor," Islam told The Associated Press after receiving a 14-inch television and a certificate amid cheers at an official ceremony packed with 500 farmers and officials. "I had no idea that the government gives prizes for this."

"This is an exciting moment. I will continue to kill them," he vowed.

AP

Prize winner Kari Mohmmad Fazlul Haque, shows a rat he caught at an annual prize giving ceremony on the first day of a month long rat killing campaign in Dhaka, Bangladesh, Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2009.

Officials say the impoverished nation imports some 3 million tons of food annually, while the Ministry of Agriculture estimates that rodents annually destroy 1.5 million to 2 million tons of food.

"We can cut the import of food by at least half if we can succeed in this year's campaign," said Wais Kabir, executive chairman of the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council.

He asked everyone, especially farmers, to take on the killing mission as a sport. The government has said it will train mainly farmers and students for this year's campaign.

"Killing rats is not that easy, it needs training," Kabir said.

Islam said he mainly used poison to kill the rats at his poultry farm, and that the cull has paid off as the rodents now scavenged less.

"Previously I needed 33 sacks of poultry feed per week, now I need less than 30," he said.

Fakhrul Haque Akanda, a farmer from northern Bangladesh and the second-prize winner, killed some 37,450 rats mostly with traps, some he invented.

"These bloody rats are my enemy, they destroy my gardens," Akanda said.

"Please pray for me so that I can continue my mission, and teach and motivate others to join me," he told the audience before taking his prize, also a television.

Last year, the U.N. World Food Program launched a monthslong food aid project in the country's southeast after a plague of rats devoured rice crops.

What the? Tourism group changes name, acronym

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—A Wisconsin tourism lobbying group is changing its name after realizing its initials formed a crude acronym. The Wisconsin Tourism Federation group did a quiet rebranding in July, changing its name to the Tourism Federation of Wisconsin and updating its logo from WTF to TFW after it was featured on Web sites and blogs poking fun at it. It had no way of knowing 30 years ago that the letters would go on to take on a crude association.

Lead lobbyist for the group, Chet Gerlach, said Wednesday that the federation made the change after the meaning of the common text message lingo was brought to their attention.

FWIW (For what it's worth), officials say Wisconsin's tourism industry is a $13 billion business and grew 2.7 percent last year.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Cops: Skater faces charges in right-of-way dispute

STAMFORD, Conn. (AP)—A Connecticut inline skater faces assault and other charges after a confrontation over whether a 4-year-old on a tricycle had the right to be on a bike path. Stamford police charged 43-year-old Chris Karamon with third-degree assault, risk of injury to a minor and other crimes. Police said Karamon shouted and cursed at the boy's parents on the path in Cove Island Park. Police said he later skated into the boy's father, who was shielding his children, and threw a helmet and water bottle at him. Police Lt. Sean Cooney said the path is for use by everyone, not just skaters. Karamon declined to comment Tuesday morning.

Student accused of rubbing sleeping women's legs

WHEATON, Ill. (AP)—Authorities said a college student has been charged with breaking into the unlocked apartments of three women and rubbing their legs as they slept. Police said that when the women awoke, the man fled. Bond was set at $100,000 Monday for the 19-year-old man, who was charged with three counts of criminal trespass. Authorities said the man is a student at Kishwaukee Community College in Malta. Assistant DuPage County State's Attorney Brooks Locke said three different women at the apartment complex where the suspect lived reported to police that they were awakened by a man dressed in all black rubbing their legs. No other contact was reported. The suspect was arrested early Sunday morning near the apartment complex.

Psychic charged with lying about attack by rivals

GREENWICH, Conn. (AP)—A Connecticut psychic who said she was assaulted in an attack she believed was arranged by rival psychics has been charged with lying about the incident. Greenwich police arrested 35-year-old Janet Lee of Norwalk on Saturday on charges including falsely reporting an incident. Lee, who promotes herself the "foremost psychic in New England," called police on July 11 to report that a man had beaten her outside her Greenwich office. She said she believed rival psychics in town who had left her threatening phone messages were responsible, but she did not know their names. Greenwich police said there were inconsistencies in Lee's story, and they believe she may have been assaulted in Norwalk by someone she knew. Lee's attorney said his client stands by her story.

Man calls 911 to confess to Fla. robbery

PORT ORANGE, Fla. (AP)—Authorities in coastal Florida say a man called 911 to turn himself in about 20 minutes after robbing a Port Orange bank. Police say 42-year-old Tony Max Olea walked into the Colonial Bank branch Tuesday morning and handed the teller a note implying that he had a gun and wanted money. Police say the teller gave the man money, along with a dye pack, which reportedly went off. A short time later, Olea called authorities from a gas station parking lot to turn himself in. He was charged with a single count of robbery and was being held on $20,000 bail. Jail officials said they did not know if he has an attorney.

Pa. woman tackles burglar who broke into her home

YORK, Pa. (AP)—A Pennsylvania woman dove on a burglar who broke into her home and hung onto him until police arrived. Tina Graham, 40, said she heard an intruder in her York home around 2:30 a.m. Sunday. She said she called police then told the intruder he was going to jail. As he tried to run, the 140-pound woman said she jumped on the 160-pound man and pinned him against a fence. A 39-year-old man was charged with burglary, assault, and related counts. Police said he admitted to two other recent attempted break-ins at Graham's home. Graham said people are making a big deal of her actions, but she just did what anyone would do.

Motorcyclist riding with baby leads to 3 arrests

JONESBOROUGH, Tenn. (AP)—Washington County authorities said a motorcyclist riding down the road without a helmet led to a series of discoveries and three arrests. The Johnson City Press reported that when officers stopped 21-year-old outside his home on Tuesday, they found he wasn't alone. The man also had an 18-month-old baby on board, also without a helmet. As they wrote him up for reckless endangerment, evading arrest and driving on a suspended license, officers learned another man at the home was a fugitive from North Carolina. They arrested him as well. But before the officers could leave, they spotted a third man allegedly breaking into a nearby barn. So they arrested him, too.

Cops: Woman fried, ate goldfish amid fight with ex

PASADENA, Texas (AP)—Authorities say a Houston-area woman who was burned up at her former common-law husband fried their pet goldfish and ate some of them. Pasadena police say it's a civil matter and no charges will be filed. The seven goldfish were purchased together by the couple during happier times. Police spokesman Vance Mitchell says the man reported on Saturday that the woman took the goldfish from his apartment. Mitchell says the two argued earlier about some jewelry the man had given her but took back. She wanted the jewelry returned. Officers who were dispatched to the woman's home arrived to find four fried goldfish on a plate. The woman said she already ate the other three.

Robbery suspect escapes from NYC courthouse

NEW YORK (AP)—Police are looking for a well-dressed robbery suspect who walked out of a Manhattan courthouse after an officer apparently mistook him for a lawyer. Ronald Tackman was wearing a business suit while waiting to appear before a judge Wednesday morning. Authorities say Tackman slipped away from a prisoner holding area to a locked area behind a court room. That's where his attorney, Joseph Heinzmann, says a court officer spotted him and, thinking he was a lawyer, let him out. Surveillance cameras recorded Tackman walking unnoticed out the courthouse's heavily guarded front door at around 9 a.m. Tackman, who's 54 and has spent much of his adult life in prison, was convicted in the late 1980s of escape and pleaded guilty to possessing a weapon that authorities say he used in an escape attempt.

Cops: Feces-covered nude man jumps into man's pool

STUART, Fla. (AP)—A Florida man is facing charges after authorities said he was naked and covered in feces when he broke into a resident's backyard and jumped into the pool. A Martin County Sheriff's Office report shows 21-year-old Robert Stark Higgins was charged with burglary to an occupied dwelling, disorderly conduct and misdemeanor theft. The resident told deputies he heard Higgins crash through the screen of his pool and take a splash Saturday night. Authorities said Higgins took a towel and fled. Deputies used a K-9 to track Higgins to a home. Higgins told deputies he had been drinking. He was being held at the Martin County Jail on $10,500 bail. Jail officials said he did not immediately have an attorney.

Miss. police use Taser, handcuffs on wayward emu

FOREST, Miss. (AP)—Officers had to use a stun gun and handcuffs to capture an emu running loose on Interstate 20 in central Mississippi on Sunday. Police Officer Kiley Culpepper told WLBT-TV in Jackson that motorists had been calling 911 since Friday to report sightings of two emus on I-20 and nearby U.S. Highway 80. Authorities had been unable to find the animals until Sunday, when one was spotted near an I-20 entrance ramp. The big bird was dodging traffic. Culpepper and deputies were able to surround the animal but has to use the Taser and handcuffs to finally get it off the road. After being captured, the animal was taken to the Scott County Forest Coliseum.

White Philly officer told to get rid of cornrows

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Police in Philadelphia say a white officer who came to work with cornrows was ordered by a black superior to get a haircut because the braids violated department standards. The Philadelphia Daily News reported Monday that Officer Thomas Strain was put on desk duty this month because of the braids, even though the paper reported dozens of black officers wear cornrows. Police spokesman Lt. Frank Vanore says Strain's boss told the officer to cut his hair to look more "professional." Vanore says officers' hats must fit "in a military manner" over their hair, and that Strain's hat did not. Strain got a haircut; he declined comment to the paper. Vanore recalled only one black officer with braids in the past several years. He says that officer also was told to get a haircut.

Science & Technology

10 ways to save on calling costs

By PETER SVENSSON
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The cost of making phone calls has been dropping rapidly in the last few years. If you want take full advantage of that, you'll need to try some new things, because the phone companies aren't going to thrust savings on you. Here are 10 tips on how to cut the cost of your phone service.

Several services let you use your home broadband line to make and receive calls. Some of them are aimed at replacing your landline outright, while others are designed as complements.

Vonage is the most widely advertised replacement for the home phone line, and the price is more attractive than before. It just squeezed free calls to more than 60 countries into its standard $25-per-month plan, which already included free domestic calling.

Vonage sends you an adapter that connects to your broadband line and your old phone. The setup requires that you know where your broadband modem is and how to connect something to it. Vonage gives you a new phone number, or allows you to move over your old number to the service.

But if you're not a big overseas caller, there are cheaper alternatives, and in my testing, long-running problems with audio quality and reliability persist, particularly for international calls.

Ooma sells a device that's similar to Vonage's adapter, but once you've plunked down $250 for it, domestic calls are free. International calls are billed at low per-minute rates. Ooma's audio quality and reliability are much better than Vonage's, but slightly below that of a regular phone line. Like Vonage, Ooma will let you use your old phone number (for a $40 transfer fee). The adapter works as an answering machine too, and you can access your voice mail through a Web browser as well.

There's a new model of the Ooma device coming soon that can act as the base station for cordless phones. The price hasn't been announced. The company has hinted that buyers of the new model may need to pay low yearly fees to cover telecom taxes.

MagicJack is an up-and-comer, selling a device that plugs into a computer to provide unlimited domestic calls for one year for $40. After that, every year of service costs $20. International calls are billed at low per-minute rates. In our tests, it worked, but not very well—call quality was barely acceptable.

The MagicJack device has a phone number and can receive calls, but you can't move your own number to it. The computer needs to be on for the MagicJack to receive calls, so using it as your primary phone line could be a false economy: Leaving your computer on all the time for a year could cost you $300 in electricity.

Skype is best known for free computer-to-computer voice and video chatting, but you can make and receive phone calls using this software as well. Outgoing calls are billed per minute or through monthly unlimited-calling plans. A phone number that can receive incoming calls costs $60 per year. You can't use your old number as your Skype number, and you can't call 911. You can't use your old phone either, but you can buy special Skype phones if you don't want to use a headset and microphone. Overall, Skype isn't much of a replacement for regular phone service, but could be a complement.

Skype is best known for free computer-to-computer voice and video chatting, but you can make and receive phone calls using this software as well.

T-Mobile USA sells a $40 "AtHome" Internet router or adapter to which you can connect a home phone. Unlimited domestic calls are then $10 per month. You can move your old number to the service. The catch? You have to be a T-Mobile wireless subscriber, paying at least $40 per month on a single plan, or $50 per month on a family plan. Also, international rates are high for this sort of service. First, you need to fork over $5 per month just to make international calls, and then you pay rates like 4 cents per minute to Canada, which other providers let you call for free.

Prepaid cell phones are marketed mainly to people with poor credit, but many households could save money by going prepaid instead of signing up for long-term contracts. The main limitation of prepaid service is that it's difficult to get feature-packed "smart" phones.

Tracfone is the biggest provider of prepaid phone service in the U.S. It sells bare-bones phones cheaply, and calls cost between 15 cents and 30 cents per minute. If you use your phone for only a few short calls a day, this is a good deal—Tracfone subscribers pay an average of $10 per month. Prepaid service can also be a good thing to give your kids, since they can't run up huge bills. Warning: If you give your landline phone number or e-mail address to Tracfone during the registration process, it will pester you with frequent "special offers."

T-Mobile is another big prepaid carrier, and with good reason: its "Pay As You Go" service can cost as little as 10 cents per minute, with none of the daily usage fees other major carriers impose on their prepaid plans. In addition, it's usually possible to use prepaid service on T-Mobile phones whose contracts have expired.

For heavy callers, prepaid unlimited plans costing less than $50 per month are available from MetroPCS Communications Inc., Leap Wireless International Inc. (under the Cricket brand) and Sprint Nextel Corp. (under the Boost brand). We tried a MetroPCS phone in New York and didn't have any problems. It worked just like one from a more expensive carrier, including the Web access. The upfront cost of that device—a touch-screen-equipped Samsung Finesse—is $349. An equivalent phone would cost $50 or $100 when you sign a contract with a major carrier. But you'd come out ahead in less than a year by saving $30 per month on the prepaid service. You also could get a MetroPCS phone for as little as $69. Caveat: MetroPCS and Cricket have limited calling areas compared to the major carriers. If you go outside major cities, you'll pay roaming fees. If you don't want to switch to prepaid, there are still ways of cutting cell phone calling costs, at least for international calls. These services work a bit like calling cards, but are more convenient and won't shortchange you like many calling cards do.

Google Voice lets you call internationally at per-minute rates that are much lower than the carriers' prices, and text-message for free. It's designed to be used with a Web browser, but you can use it from your phone too. If you have a BlackBerry or Android phone, you can download an application. If you have a non-"smart" phone, you can call a Google number, then key in the number you want to call, just as if you were using a calling card.

Rebtel provides cheap international calls, much like Google Voice, but is easier to use with phones that don't have Web browsers. For each international number you like to call, it gives you a local number you can place in your contact list. When you call that number, Rebtel automatically connects you to the overseas number.

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q. I'm getting a "Personal Antivirus" pop-up that says it wants to scan my computer for viruses. I click "cancel" and it doesn't go away unless I force-quit my browser. I'm using a Mac, but the remedies for this involve Windows programs.

A. This "scareware" attack is becoming a widespread problem—recently, it was embedded in ads placed on the New York Times' Web site by a fraudulent buyer.

Personal Antivirus and scams like it try to mimic the warnings of legitimate security programs. But real antivirus utilities don't scatter exclamation points in their prompts to try to panic users. Nor do they infect your PC with malware after you click a "cleanup" button. (On a Mac, scareware can only keep pestering you about phony virus threats.)

As my colleague Brian Krebs has outlined in his Security Fix blog (voices.washingtonpost.com/securityfix), if you see one of these windows pop up, don't bother clicking its "cancel," "OK" or "continue" buttons. Assume that everything in that window is a lie.

If you clicked one of those buttons anyway and your PC got hit with a virus, Krebs recommends Malwarebytes' Anti-Malware (malwarebytes.org), a free download for Windows.

To dispel the scareware, use the regular window-close controls—the red "x" at the top right of the window in Windows XP or Vista, the red button at the top left in Mac OS X. If that doesn't work, you may need to force your browser to shut down. In Windows, hit Ctrl-Shift-Esc to pull up the Task Manager, select your browser and click the "End Task" button. In OS X, hit the Option, Command (Apple logo) and Esc keys to bring up the "Force Quit" dialog.

Then stay away from whatever site launched this pop-up in the first place. Make sure you've got the latest version of your Web browser—in most cases, Microsoft's Internet Explorer 8, Mozilla Firefox 3.5 or Apple's Safari 4.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JOAQUIN TAISACAN QUITUGUA, Plaintiff, vs. FRANCISCO BLAS IGISAIAR and EDDY BLAS IGISAIAR, Defendants. — CIVIL ACTION NO. 96-1249 — FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on March 6, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendants Eddy Blas Igisaiar in and to the following property: Lot No. 026 K 80, situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 895 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 026 K 08 dated September 24, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 93-3500, the description therin being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 9, 2009, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at the Law Offices of Michael A. White, Esq., LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 11th day of September, 2009.

/s/ **MICHAEL A. WHITE**
Auctioneer

JOE HILL, Esq.
HILL LAW OFFICE
P.O. Box 500917
Saipan, CM 96950
Phone: (670) 234-6806/7743
Fax: (670) 234-7753

Attorney for Petitioners

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION AND CHANGE OF NAME OF: ZHE XIAN LI ICHIHARA, Adoptee, By: JESSE PAUL ALDAN ICHIHARA, Petitoner. — FCD AD Civil Action No. 09-0574 — NOTICE OF HEARING

Please take notice that at 1:30p.m., October 29, 2009 or as soon thereafter as can be heard, this Court will hold a hearing at the Superior Court in Susupe for the specific purpose of:

1. Determining whether a decree of adoption of the adoptee Zhe Xian Li Ichihara should be granted to Petitioner herein.

2. Affording any party adversely affected an opportunity to be heard.

Dated this 30th day of September, 2009.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC., Plaintiff, -v-. LUCIA C. SABLAN, Defendant. — CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0058 — NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on August 19, 2009, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot 1749-NEW-B-18 (part of Lot 1749-NEW-B, part of original lot 1749, T.D. 305), situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2012/94, the original of which was recorded 11 October, 1993 as Document No. 93-3796 at the Commonwelath Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 9, 2009, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 25th day of August, 2009:

/s/ **MICHAEL A. WHITE**, Auctioneer

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ESTEBAN RASIANG NOGIS, Deceased. — CIVIL ACTION NO. 05-0113 D — THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on April 16, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of the Estate of Esteban Rasiang Nogis in and to the following property: Track No. 22703-3, containing an area of 1,484 square meters, more or less.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, October 9, 2009, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC., Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 10th day of September, 2009.

/s/ **MICHAEL A. WHITE**
Auctioneer

Life & Style

Polanski: Regard for his art, disdain for his act

NEW YORK (AP)—If a truly great artist engages in a truly awful crime, should our feelings about the art mitigate our feelings about the crime?

That is just one of the gut-churning questions being asked across the Web, as people consider the predicament of Oscar-winning director Roman Polanski, sitting now in a Swiss jail and facing possible extradition to the United States for fleeing the country more than 30 years ago after he pleaded guilty in a sex case involving a 13-year-old girl.

And to many people, the answer is clear: Brilliant filmmaker or not, the man violated a young girl and needs to face justice for it.

"I wish to God he hadn't done it," said Frances Willington, a longtime Polanski fan and one of many who vented her frustrations online.

"I think he's the greatest film director of my generation," said Willington, who is British, in a follow-up interview from her home in southern France. But she was incensed by the immediate embrace of Polanski by some French cultural leaders, including the culture minister, who expressed outrage that Polanski was being "thrown to the lions."

"They're calling on people to sign a petition when this man is escaping the law!" said Willington, who works in marketing. "I don't care if he's made great films. I don't believe that cultural and artistic ability exempts you from being morally correct."

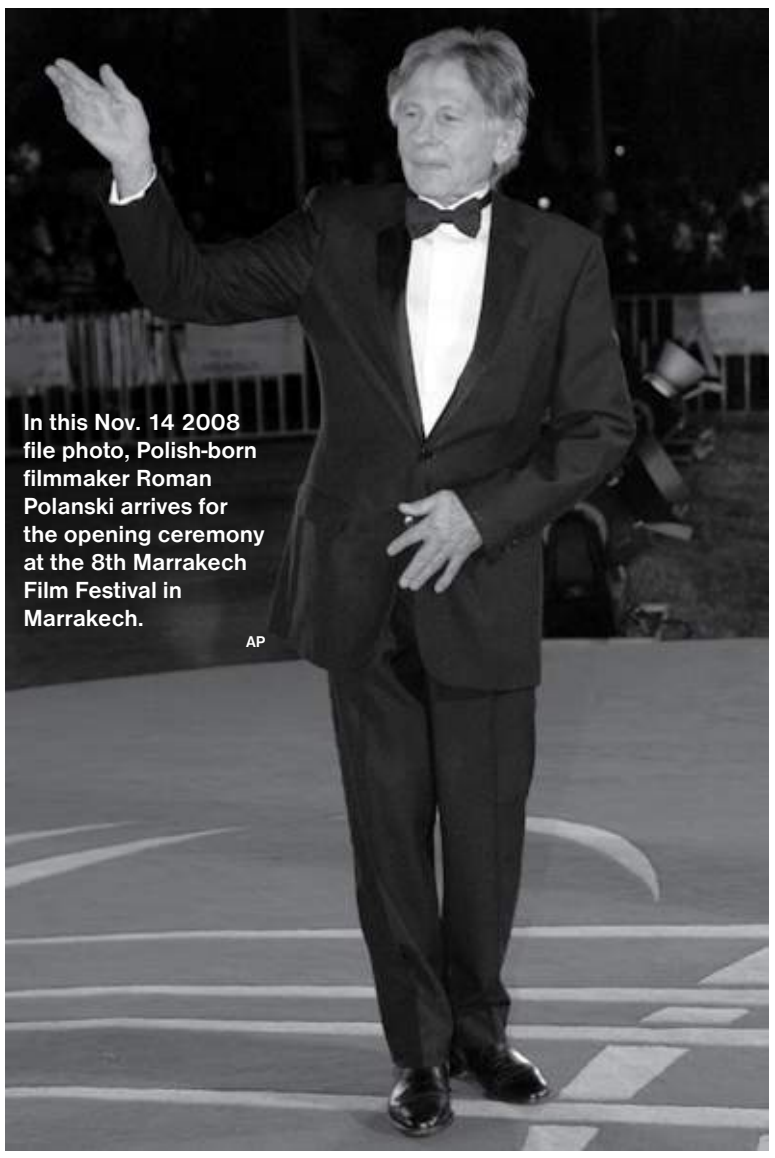
Though it was impossible to measure the balance of sentiment, on most sites there seemed to be many more postings calling for Polanski to face justice—particularly from people in the United States, but also from other countries. Many mentioned the sordid details of the case, which have grown foggy over time but have now resurfaced for all to see.

"All you fans need to read the court transcripts on thesmokinggun.com," wrote one poster, Paul Cooper, on a Facebook page devoted to Polanski. "Roman is a pig. Read and learn."

Polanski was accused of plying the 13-year-old girl, Samantha Geimer, with champagne and Quaaludes during a modeling shoot in 1977 and raping her. He was initially indicted on six felony counts, including rape by use of drugs, child molesting and sodomy.

He agreed to plead guilty to the lesser charge of unlawful sexual intercourse. In exchange, the judge agreed to drop the remaining charges and commute the sentence to the 42 days already served. But Polanski fled the country Feb. 1, 1978, the day he was scheduled to be sentenced, after hearing that the judge planned to add more prison time to the sentence.

Geimer long ago identified herself, and she has joined in Polanski's bid for dismissal. She testified at the time that Polanski forced himself on her—which he acknowledged in his guilty plea—but has said she forgives him and wants the ordeal to be over.



In this Nov. 14 2008 file photo, Polish-born filmmaker Roman Polanski arrives for the opening ceremony at the 8th Marrakech Film Festival in Marrakech.

AP

Meanwhile, the director of "Rosemary's Baby," "Chinatown" and "The Pianist," which won him a best director Oscar, is in jail, arrested just as he arrived in Zurich to be honored at a film festival—a development that stunned his colleagues.

A petition was immediately organized calling for his release, signed by prominent fellow directors including Woody Allen, Martin Scorsese, Darren Aronofsky, Terry Gilliam, Jonathan Demme, Ethan Coen and David Lynch, as well as actresses Penelope Cruz and Tilda Swinton.

Actress Debra Winger, presiding over the Zurich festival jury, complained: "This fledgling festival has been unfairly exploited." She also blamed Swiss authorities for their "Philistine collusion." And producer Harvey Weinstein said in a statement: "We are calling every filmmaker we can to help fix this terrible situation." (Representatives for Winger, Demme and Allen did not respond to requests for comment, and Weinstein and Aronofsky declined.)

But it would be a mistake to assume that the American figures on the list speak for all Hollywood, said Richard Walter, a longtime industry observer and a screenwriting professor at UCLA.

"Because they're celebrities, their voices are heard much more than others," Walter said. "But there's not a shred of evidence that the majority of people in the entertainment business are sympathetic with Polanski's position."

To another observer, the support from Hollywood elite is a case of colleagues closing ranks. "This is people attempting to protect their own," said Todd Boyd, professor of popular culture at the University of Southern California.

In online postings, some people noted that Polanski's difficult past must be taken into account. He escaped the Krakow ghetto during the Holocaust, lost his mother at Auschwitz, and later in life endured the murder of his wife, Sharon Tate, by followers of Charles Manson.

Other defenders said they understood why Polanski had fled the country, and noted that the victim had already forgiven Polanski.

"In a way, I don't blame Roman for fleeing," wrote Donna Mummery, 52, of Shreveport, La., on Facebook. "Let him enjoy the rest of his life now. "He's done a lot of good since that hard time in his life."

Miami filmmaker Rodrigo Diaz-McVeigh agreed, adding that Polanski has shown over the years that he is not a danger to anyone.

Key figure in Polanski documentary says he lied

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A former prosecutor who told a documentary film crew that he advised a judge handling Roman Polanski's case now says he lied about that.

David F. Wells says he lied to the makers of "Roman Polanski: Wanted and Desired" about telling a judge in chambers that he should send the director to prison. The statements became part of the basis for a move by Polanski's attorneys to dismiss the case against the fugitive director, who is now in Swiss custody.

Wells retired as a prosecutor more than two years ago.

He says he "embellished" his actions to the film makers because he was told the documentary would air in France, not the United States.

"It was a dumb thing to do," Wells says. "I'm going to have to live with it."

Peter Fonda: Authorities wasting time on Polanski

ZURICH (AP)—Actor Peter Fonda says international authorities had better things to focus on than catching Roman Polanski. Fonda told local radio Wednesday that "we should have been celebrating the arrest of Osama bin Laden and not the arrest of Polanski."

The 69-year-old star of "Easy Rider" was in Zurich for a film festival. Polanski was also scheduled to attend the festival but was arrested Saturday as he arrived at the Zurich airport.

The 76-year-old Polanski is being sought by U.S. authorities for having sex in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl.

Fonda says Polanski "is not responsible for killing anyone" and noted that the victim has asked for the case to be dismissed.

Tate's sister: Polanski won't get fair US trial

NEW YORK (AP)—Debra Tate, the sister of Roman Polanski's second wife, actress Sharon Tate, says Polanski is brilliant and a "good guy" and she doesn't think her former brother-in-law can get a fair trial in the United States.

Tate told NBC's "Today" show Wednesday that the U.S. justice system is broken.

Polanski was arrested Saturday in Zurich. The U.S. has been seeking the extradition of Polanski, who fled to France decades ago to avoid sentencing for having unlawful sex with a 13-year-old girl in 1977.

Tate says Polanski did not forcibly have sex with the girl, calling it a "consensual matter." The girl, however, testified at the time that Polanski forced himself on her. She subsequently has said she forgives him and wants the ordeal to be over.

Sharon Tate was murdered in Los Angeles in 1969 by followers of Charles Manson. She was eight months pregnant.

Debra Tate says it's been a devastating few weeks for her, with her sister's killer, Susan Atkins, dying Sept. 24 and now her late sister's husband jailed.

BEST SELLERS

Nonfiction

Outliers, by Malcolm Gladwell (Little, Brown: $27.99). An exploration of the background of high achievers.

L.A. Noir, by John Buntin (Harmony: $26). Gangster Mickey Cohen and LAPD Chief William Parker battle for control in midcentury Los Angeles.

Culture of Corruption, by Michelle Malkin (Regnery Publishing: $27.95). An investigation into alleged corruption in the Obama administration.

Zeitoun, by Dave Eggers (McSweeney's: $24). The disappearance of a Syrian American father and good Samaritan in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Crazy for the Storm, by Norman Ollestad (Ecco: $25.99). The son of a daredevil tells of his life on the edge and how he survived a deadly plane crash.

A Big Little Life, by Dean Koontz (Hyperion: $24.99). A retired service dog renews a sense of life in the bestselling author.

Strength in What Remains, by Tracy Kidder (Random House: $26). The saga of a refugee from Burundi, who, with the help of strangers, makes his way in America and goes back to start a medical clinic.

Character Driven, by Derek Fisher (Touchstone: $24.99). The Los Angeles Lakers guard shares his life lessons and family devotion along his journey to four NBA titles.

The Secret, by Rhonda Byrne (Beyond Words: $23.95). Life's secrets, distilled.

Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Man, by Steve Harvey (Amistad: $23.99). The talk-show host lets women inside the mind-set of a man.

Fiction

The Help, by Kathryn Stockett (Putnam: $24.95). The lives of a maid, a cook and a college graduate become intertwined while changing a Mississippi town.

A Gate at the Stairs, by Lorrie Moore (Knopf : $25.95). A naive Midwestern college coed takes a job as a nanny for a recently adopted toddler.

The Girl Who Played With Fire, by Stieg Larsson (Knopf: $25.95). A hacker implicated in two murders must revisit her past to prove her innocence.

South of Broad, by Pat Conroy (Nan A. Talese: $29.95). A gossip columnist's homage to a close-knit group of friends from Charleston.

The Lost Symbol, by Dan Brown (Doubleday: $25.99). Harvard professor Robert Langdon uses his symbology skills to find a missing Freemason in Washington, D.C.

Inherent Vice, by Thomas Pynchon (Penguin Press: $27.95). Noir meets '60s Southern California groovy in a private eye's psychedelic quest.

The White Queen, by Philippa Gregory (Touchstone: $25.99). The wars of the Plantagenets, who ruled England before the Tudors, enmeshed with the mystery of the missing princes in the Tower of London.

The Last Song, by Nicholas Sparks (Grand Central: $24.99). A brother and sister begrudgingly spend the summer with their estranged pianist father and discover the meaning of unconditional love.

Catching Fire, by Suzanne Collins (Scholastic Press: $17.99). The winners of the annual Hunger Games face the consequences of their victory.

Eclipse, by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown: $19.99). Bella must choose between her lover and a friend, between life and death.

(c) 2009 Los Angeles Times

Palin's book already a best-seller before release

NEW YORK (AP)—Move over, Dan Brown. Sarah Palin is on top of the charts.

Just two days after HarperCollins announced that Palin's "Going Rogue" had been moved up from the spring to Nov. 17, preorders Wednesday night for the former Alaska governor's memoir made it No. 1 on both Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble.com.

Former U.S. vice presidential nominee Sarah Palin and her husband Todd Palin arrive at the check-in counter at Hong Kong airport Thursday, Sept. 24, 2009 as they leave Hong Kong for the U.S.

AP

Among the books "Going Rogue" is outselling: Sen. Ted Kennedy's "True Compass," Mitch Albom's "Have a Little Faith" and Brown's "The Lost Symbol," his first novel since "The Da Vinci Code" and, perhaps until now, the year's most anticipated release.

Palin, in collaboration with author Lynn Vincent, completed her 400-page book just four months after agreeing to terms with HarperCollins, which plans a first printing of 1.5 million copies. It's the first book by Palin, the 2008 Republican vice presidential candidate and Alaska governor until suddenly resigning last summer. She is regarded as a possible 2012 contender for the presidency. Past candidates, notably Barack Obama, have been helped by writing best-selling books, invaluable platforms for politicians to tell their story.

The response at Alaska bookstores was mixed.

A woman taking a call at Waldenbooks in Wasilla, Palin's hometown, said she was preordering a copy at that moment and there had been "lots of interest." She would not give her name but referred a reporter to her boss, Borders district manager Grant Larsen, who said interest had been strong both in Wasilla and Anchorage.

"We're very excited about it and already have several signed up," he said. "We're expecting that to be massive."

A lot of people are coming into the store and asking to reserve a copy, Larsen said. Borders booksellers also are asking customers if they want to reserve one. The more people reserve copies, he said, the more copies the stores will get.

Julie Drake, co-owner of Anchorage's largest independent bookstore, Title Wave, stopped to quiz her booksellers about Palin's book.

"Nobody has said a word. Not a single customer has asked about it. I don't know what that means. Maybe we're all going rogue, going all mavericky," she said.

Jackman, Craig fare better than 'A Steady Rain'

AP

Actors Daniel Craig, left, and Hugh Jackman pose for photos following the Broadway opening performance of 'A Steady Rain' on Tuesday, Sept. 29, 2009 in New York. 'A Steady Rain' stars Daniel Craig and Hugh Jackman.

NEW YORK (AP)—Daniel Craig and Hugh Jackman emerged unscathed but "A Steady Rain" wasn't as lucky.

The two megastars opened on Broadway Tuesday to mostly positive notices in Keith Huff's two-character police drama, with many of the critics more critical of the play than the performers.

The AP said, "While both men, particularly Craig, acquit themselves well, they can't turn the 90-minute evening into anything more than a chance to see two big-time movie stars emoting up close in a pulpy, plot-heavy entertainment."

The New York Times said, "Big names, little show. 'A Steady Rain' ... is probably best regarded as a small, wobbly pedestal on which two gods of the screen may stand in order to be worshipped."

The New York Post described Huff's play as a "mawkish, labored, two-hander," while The Washington Post sniffed that the production was "an opportunity squandered."

But the (New York) Daily News was a bit more generous, calling "A Steady Rain" "a stark and modest work that's all talk and no action. It keeps you at arms length."

Variety was even better. It called the production "riveting theater," while Newsday said the play was "a dark, moody, small but brutal 90-minute duet ... a gorgeously acted set of monologues about moral ambiguity."

Not that the reviews matter.

"A Steady Rain" has been doing boffo business at the box office since it begin previews Sept. 10 at the Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre. Last week, for example, the show grossed $1.16 million, according to its producers,

But then the play also sports the highest regular ticket price for a play (but not a musical) on Broadway. Top weekend tickets go for $130 each, climbing to $140 Thanksgiving weekend and for Dec. 4-6, the final weekend of the production's 12-week limited engagement. And premium seats (the best in the house), range from $226.50 up to an eye-popping $376.50, depending on the performance.

So far, Jackman and Craig have bested another marquee name in the box-office department: Jude Law, starring in "Hamlet." The Shakespeare warhorse took in $632,206 during last week's preview performances, filling about 70 percent of the seats at the Broadhurst Theatre. "Hamlet" opens Oct. 6.

'West Side Story' recoups $14M investment

NEW YORK (AP)—"West Side Story" has danced into the financial hit column.

Its producers say the current Broadway revival has recouped its $14 million investment in less than eight months. The production, directed by Arthur Laurents, opened last March at the Palace Theatre and has been doing strong business since then.

Laurents wrote the book for the musical, which features a score by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim. The original production, directed and choreographed by Jerome Robbins, opened on Broadway in 1957.

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I Can Do Bad All By Myself
Friday 4:15 7:30 9:45
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:30 9:45
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:30
Taraji P. Henson, Adam Rodriguez
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
When Madea, a pistol-packing grandma, catches sixteen-year-old Jennifer and her two younger brothers looting her home, she decides to take matters into her own hands and delivers the young delinquents to the only relative they have: their aunt April. A heavy-drinking nightclub singer who lives off of Raymond, her married boyfriend, April wants nothing to do with the kids. But her attitude begins to change when Sandino, a handsome Mexican immigrant looking for work, moves into April's basement room.

Fame
Friday 4:10 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:10 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:10 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:05
Paul Iacono, Kristy Flores
Drama, Teen, Music • Rated PG
Synopsis
A talented group of dancers, singers, actors, and artists attending New York City High School of Performing Arts are given a chance to live out their dreams and achieve real and lasting fame...the kind that comes only from talent, dedication, and hard work. As each student strives for his or her moment in the spotlight, they'll discover who among them has the innate talent and necessary discipline to succeed. With the love and support of their friends and fellow artists, they'll find out who amongst them will achieve Fame.

Surrogates
Friday 4:05 7:10 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:05 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:05 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:10
Bruce Willis, Radha Mitchell
Thriller, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Set in a futuristic world where humans live in isolation and interact vicariously through surrogate robots. Bruce Willis stars as an FBI agent who enlists the aid of his own surrogate to investigate the murder of the genius college student who invented the surrogates. As the case grows more complicated, however, the withdrawn detective discovers that in order to actually catch the killer he will have to venture outside the safety of his own home for the first time in many years, and enlists the aid of another agent (Radha Mitchell) in tracking his target down.

Pandorum
Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Dennis Quaid, Ben Foster
Action, Thriller • Rated R

All About Steve
Friday 4:20 7:15 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:20 7:15 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:20 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:15
Sandra Bullock, Bradley Cooper
Comedy • Rated PG 13

And I Love You So
Friday 4:25 7:20 9:30
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:30
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:20
Bea Alonzo, Derek Ramsay
Drama, Romance • NR

G.I. JOE
Friday 4:30 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:30 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:30 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:25
Dennis Quaid, Channing Tatum
War • Rated PG 13

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Travolta testifies Bahamas medic threatened him

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—John Travolta testified Wednesday that a Bahamas paramedic threatened to sell stories to the news media suggesting the movie star was at fault in the death of his 16-year-old son. Travolta said paramedic Tarino Lightbourne, who is now on trial for extortion, demanded $25 million.

If he did not pay, Travolta told the jury, Lightbourne indicated he would use against him a consent document that the actor initially signed refusing to have his son Jett sent to a local hospital. The document cleared Lightbourne of any liability.

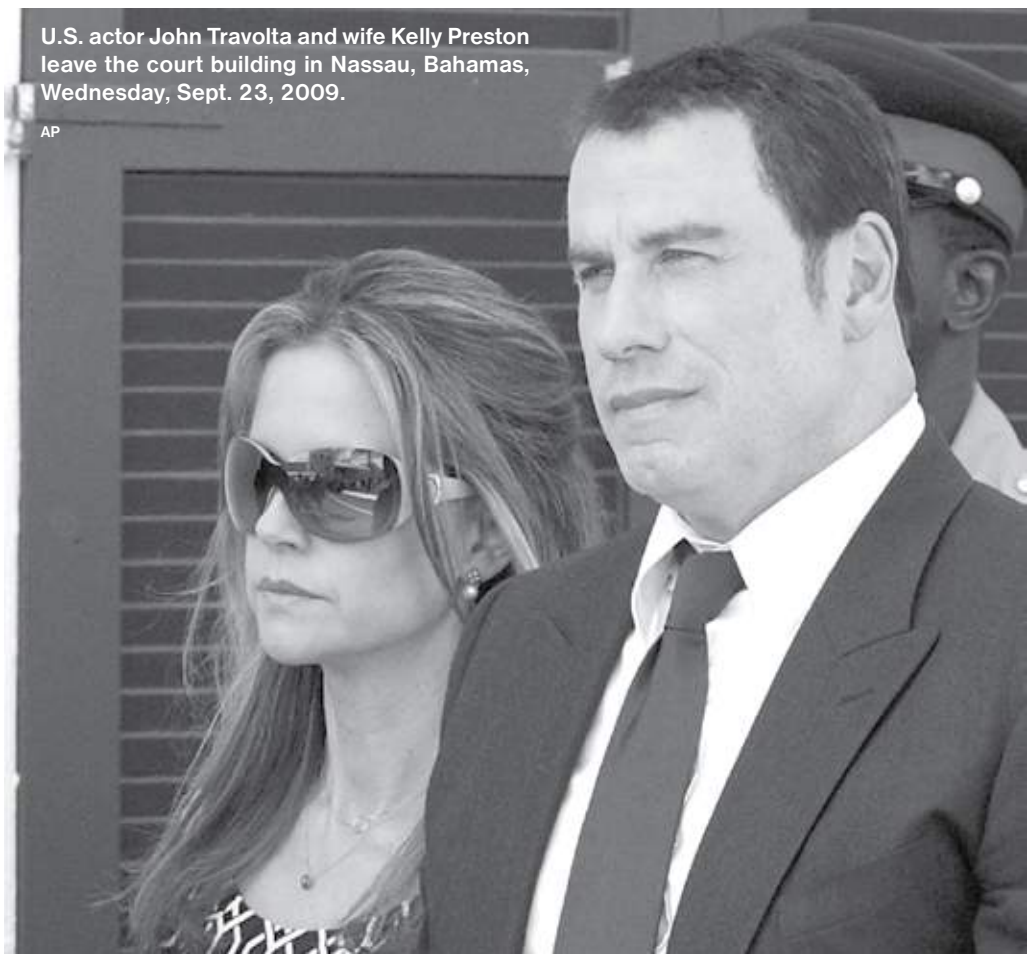
"They were stories that would imply that the death of my son was intentional and I was culpable in some way," Travolta said.

Travolta was testifying in the second week of the trial of Lightbourne and Pleasant Bridgewater, a former Bahamas senator who allegedly negotiated with the actor's lawyers for the medic. Both defendants have pleaded not guilty.

Travolta testified last week that he signed the document because he initially wanted his son flown to Florida for treatment. But Jett, who had suffered a seizure at a family vacation home on Grand Bahama island, was taken instead to a local hospital, where he died on Jan. 2.

Travolta and his wife, Kelly Preston, left the Nassau courthouse immediately after his testimony in an entourage of cars with their attorneys and bodyguards.

A Bahamian attorney for Travolta, Allyson Maynard-Gibson, has testified that Bridgewater told her in a January meeting that the paramedic was talking with a woman from an unidentified American news outlet "who said it might be beneficial to him if he could show that Travolta was negligent." She said Lightbourne was also in talks with several other media companies.



U.S. actor John Travolta and wife Kelly Preston leave the court building in Nassau, Bahamas, Wednesday, Sept. 23, 2009.

AP

Matt LeBlanc returning to series TV on Showtime

NEW YORK (AP)—Showtime network says "Friends" alum Matt LeBlanc is returning to TV in a new comedy.

LeBlanc will star in "Episodes," a single-camera series about a husband-and-wife producing team whose witty hit comedy on British TV is turned into a dumbed-down American sitcom starring LeBlanc, who plays himself.

"Episodes" is a send-up of the TV world and LeBlanc's image as a sitcom veteran. The show will be a co-production of Showtime and the BBC and will begin shooting a six-episode season in London and Hollywood this winter. It is scheduled to air next year on Showtime and BBC Two. LeBlanc played Joey Tribbiani on "Friends" for a decade. He followed that NBC hit in 2004 with a sitcom based on the same character, "Joey," which flopped.

In this Jan. 25, 2004 file photo, Matt LeBlanc, nominated for best actor in a comedy or musical series for his work in "Friends," arrives at the 61st Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif.

AP

Comic Artie Lange pleads guilty to DUI in NJ

This Thursday, April 27, 2006 picture shows comedian and actor Artie Lange, from the Howard Stern radio show at the inaugural Howard Stern 2006 Film Festival in New York.

AP

TOMS RIVER, N.J. (AP)—Comedian and radio personality Artie Lange (LANG) has pleaded guilty to driving under the influence of a habit-producing drug in a minor traffic accident in New Jersey.

The 41-year-old Lange was charged following the July 10 accident in Toms River, about 40 miles southeast of Trenton. He entered his plea Wednesday in municipal court.

Judge James Ligouri revoked his driving privileges for seven months.

Lange, a regular on radio's "Howard Stern Show," said he was under the influence of prescribed sleeping pills, which he had last taken the night before the crash.

Demme documentary on Young at Woodstock film fest

WOODSTOCK, N.Y. (AP)—Jonathan Demme can't stop making movies about Neil Young.

Three years after releasing the concert documentary "Neil Young: Heart of Gold," the director of "The Silence of the Lambs" is at it again. This time, Demme shot a more off-the-cuff movie titled "Neil Young Trunk Show." It offers an intimate look at the rock star playing in a small hall in Pennsylvania.

"Trunk Show" gets its U.S. premiere during the 10th annual Woodstock Film Festival, which runs Wednesday through Sunday.

The Woodstock festival typically features some music-oriented movies. Another music-related documentary showing at Woodstock this week is "When You're Strange: A Film About The Doors."

Novelist Leonard to receive PEN USA award

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Novelist Elmore Leonard will receive PEN USA's lifetime achievement award at a December ceremony.

Leonard, 83, has written over 40 westerns, crime novels and mysteries, including "The Bounty Hunters," "Road Dogs" and "Cuba Libre."

Many of his books—notably "Out of Sight," "Get Shorty" and "Be Cool"—have been made into films.

Past recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award include Ray Bradbury, Woody Allen, Betty Friedan and Gore Vidal.

PEN USA is a Los Angeles-based professional writers organization.

The group's 19th Annual Literary Awards Festival will be held at the Beverly Hills Hotel on Dec. 2.

Man comes out of the closet and surprises old friends

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I spent my high school years chasing girls and participating in sports. I made good grades and was popular with peers and faculty.

I have since graduated and entered college. I have also come out of the closet as gay. Due to popular sites such as Facebook, I have reunited with old friends who are interested to hear about my "new life."

With those not "in the know," I feel uncomfortable having to come out of the closet again and again. I don't feel ashamed about myself or my boyfriend, but I feel a certain discomfort when my former and present lives meet.

I have many friends, old and new, gay and straight, who I care about. But I feel some anxiety over the reactions I get from some of those people, even though they no longer hold a prominent place in my life. I'd greatly appreciate it if you could tell me how to handle and deal with such situations.

BETWIXT AND BETWEEN IN SAN ANTONIO

DEAR BETWIXT: I understand your anxiety, but the reaction you're getting from some of your old friends is a direct result of how effectively you hid your homosexuality behind chasing girls and the misperception that being a talented athlete has anything to do with a person's sexual orientation.

You need to accept the fact that people will be surprised because they assumed you were straight like they are. Some of them will be accepting; others won't. But the people who count will get beyond it. The way to handle this is with the same humor and compassion you would like from others. It may take some practice and coming to terms with your own feelings, but I have every confidence that you'll do it as thousands of other people have.

DEAR ABBY: I am 48 and recently divorced from my husband of 25 years. Like others in my age group, I worry about my prospects of finding another partner—especially because I am no longer the "cute young thing" I once was.

A few days ago, I was at a local wildlife park and struck up a conversation with a pleasant senior couple. They looked as though they had been married more than 50 years, but they happily informed me they were on their honeymoon! When we finished our chat, the woman said to her husband, "I guess we'd better be going, baby," and off they went, hand-in-hand.

It just goes to show that it's never too late for love to blossom!

WILLING TO WAIT IN NOVA SCOTIA

DEAR WILLING TO WAIT: I'll say! My lovely cousin Suzie is being married in about two weeks after 26 years as a widow. It never is too late for love to blossom—all it takes is a seed of friendship and a couple who decide they're ready to make a commitment.

DEAR ABBY: I am a young woman in my 20s who, while very friendly, is funny about being touched. I am extremely uncomfortable when people outside my immediate family hug me, rub my shoulders or place a hand on my back or arm. Yet somehow, people tend to do this with me.

How can I express my discomfort without sounding antisocial or mean? I'd appreciate your advice.

TOUCHY SUBJECT

DEAR TOUCHY SUBJECT: Do it with humor. Say, "If you do that again, you'll have to marry me!" It should work with members of both sexes, depending upon the state you live in.

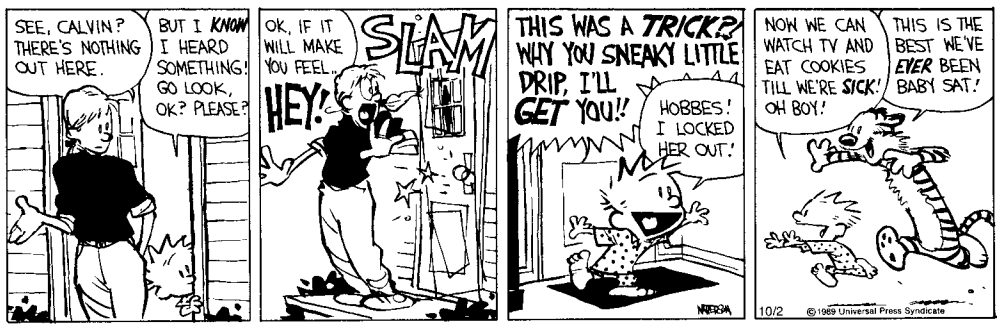
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


SEE, CALVIN? THERE'S NOTHING OUT HERE.
BUT I KNOW I HEARD SOMETHING! GO LOOK, OK? PLEASE?
OK, IF IT WILL MAKE YOU FEEL...
SLAM
HEY!
THIS WAS A TRICK? WHY YOU SNEAKY LITTLE DRIP, I'LL GET YOU!!
HOBBES! I LOCKED HER OUT!
NOW WE CAN WATCH TV AND EAT COOKIES TILL WE'RE SICK! OH BOY!
THIS IS THE BEST WE'VE EVER BEEN BABY SAT!
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By Jim Davis

GUESS WHAT I BOUGHT AT THE HARDWARE STORE...
A DRYWALL PATCH!
NOW I JUST NEED A HOLE
HOW ABOUT THE GAPING ONE IN YOUR HEAD?
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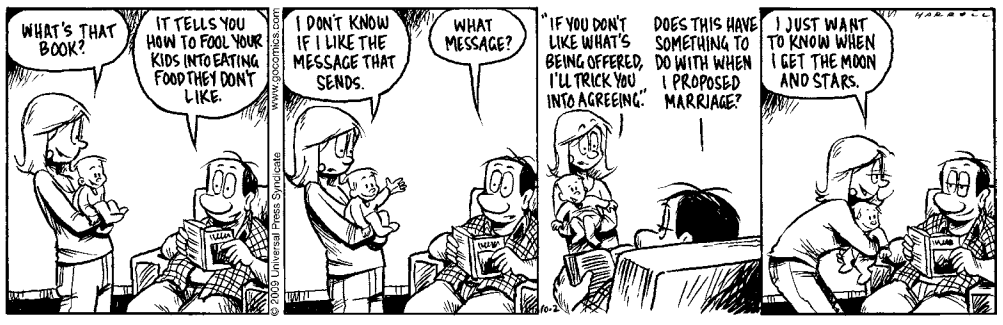
By Bryan Basset


WHAT'S THAT BOOK?
IT TELLS YOU HOW TO FOOL YOUR KIDS INTO EATING FOOD THEY DON'T LIKE.
I DON'T KNOW IF I LIKE THE MESSAGE THAT SENDS.
WHAT MESSAGE?
"IF YOU DON'T LIKE WHAT'S BEING OFFERED, I'LL TRICK YOU INTO AGREEING."
DOES THIS HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH WHEN I PROPOSED MARRIAGE?
I JUST WANT TO KNOW WHEN I GET THE MOON AND STARS.
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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

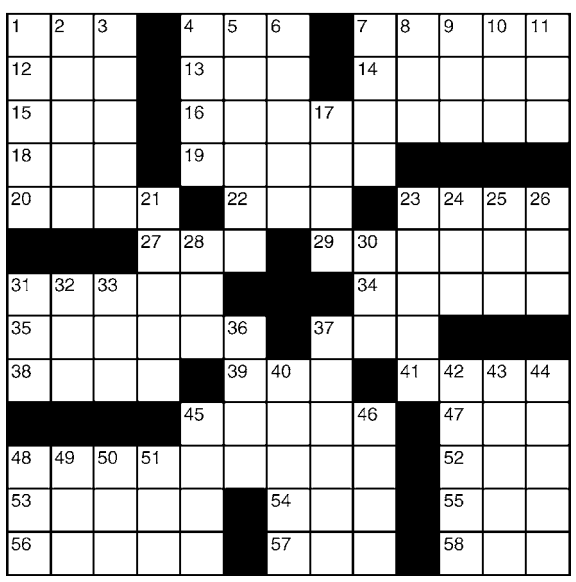
ACROSS
1 Lanka lead-in
4 Hot tub
7 Kin of "Presto!"
12 Basinger or Cattrall
13 Slithery swimmer
14 Frequently
15 "Born in the —"
16 Fertilizer
18 Yule fuel
19 Field goal score
20 Recognize
22 Parisian pal
23 Sported
27 Resistance measure
29 South American plains
31 Arcade game name
34 Put into office
35 Sociable
37 Snitch
38 Lids
39 Ostrich's kin
41 Go really fast
45 Playground fixture
47 Weep
48 Embarrassing landing, maybe
52 Chapeau
53 Palatal dangler
54 Chaps
55 Biblical verb suffix
56 Indigent
57 Savings plan acronym
58 In medias —

DOWN
1 Move stealthily
2 Footballer Andre, dubbed "Bad Moon"
3 Former larva
4 Calendar abbr.
5 "The Taking of — 1 2 3"
6 Klaxon
7 November responsibility
8 Nonfunctioning
9 Judge Lance
10 Writer Buscaglia
11 Moreover
17 Simon or Diamond
21 Everything, at a hot dog stand
23 Welk specialty
24 Inseparable
25 Sinbad's flier
26 "Guinness Book" suffix
28 Part of H.M.S.
30 Meadow
31 Sternward
32 Excessively
33 Jungfrau, for one
36 Scream
37 Comedian Rita
40 Florida city
42 Yellowish-brown shade
43 Deliver a speech
44 Legends
45 Fix, in a sense
46 Sicilian spouter
48 Enjoyment
49 St. crosser
50 Poolroom prop
51 Bygone times, once

Solution time: 25 mins.

P	A	C	■	P	I	T	H	■	L	O	A	M
I	L	L	■	A	L	O	E	■	I	D	L	E
C	L	U	B	S	O	D	A	■	P	E	E	L
■	■	B	A	S	■	D	R	E	S	S	E	D
D	O	C	T	O	R	■	T	R	Y	■	■	■
O	V	A	■	N	A	Y	■	A	N	G	E	L
N	E	R	D	■	T	A	J	■	C	O	R	E
A	R	S	O	N	■	W	A	D	■	L	I	E
■	■	■	O	A	R	■	R	E	E	F	E	R
S	C	O	R	P	I	O	■	F	T	C	■	■
H	A	R	M	■	G	L	E	E	C	L	U	B
A	R	E	A	■	E	L	A	N	■	U	S	E
M	O	O	N	■	L	A	R	D	■	B	A	G

Yesterday's answer 10-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ayumi Hamaski, 31; Kelly Ripa, 39; Sting, 58; Donna Karan, 61

Happy Birthday: Don't let the little things get to you or you will set yourself back professionally and personally. Take advantage of the favorable opportunities available to you this year. Do not rely on others to pick up the slack. Fast decisions based on research will lead to your success. Your numbers are 9, 14, 21, 23, 31, 37, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Before you become too comfortable with the idea of change, double-check all the particulars. It's apparent that what you have already may be better than what's being offered. Listen to reason. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You have plenty to rejoice about. Times are changing and, although you still have some things to contend with, you can rest assured everything will work in your favor. A romantic encounter will make you realize how lucky you are. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't bend to someone's whims. Playing emotional games will lead to heartache and loss. Say what's on your mind even if it does cause a rift in your relationship with someone. Take care of matters rather than letting them spiral out of control. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Open your doors and host an event. Your ability to put everyone at ease will make an impression that will filter over into other areas of your life. Romance is looking good. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You'll get a different perspective on a situation you are dealing with by talking to an outsider with experience. Travel should be scheduled if it will help solve a problem you've been faced with. You don't have to go overboard when simplicity will suffice. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Make some changes that will please the people you care about. Home improvements, a move or a change of location will help to clear your head and give you greater incentive to pursue your long-time goals. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Watch what others do but don't become a chameleon. You have to follow your own path and use what you observe as a learning tool, not as a reason to procrastinate. Find someone with whom to explore new territory. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Search for peace of mind. Attend a conference, seminar or retreat that will inspire you. Attitude can make a difference when dealing with people or formulating your own strategy for the future. You can revive your love life or find someone to share your world. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Watch who you push around. You may end up in a tight spot that will force you to make a decision you've been trying to avoid. Facing problems will lead to changes you may not be ready for. ✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Don't stop when you have so much to gain. Attend a reunion or make a point to get in touch with someone you think can contribute to your life or a project you are engaged in. Make things happen and you will have no regrets. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll be put in your place quickly if you try to boast about something that isn't factual. Do what's expected of you and avoid upsetting someone you count on for help. Do what's right, not just what you want this time. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Don't just think about a relationship gone wrong, do something about it. Question your motives and whether or not you should stay or let this one go. By offering compassion, affection and immediate attention to the problem, emotional turmoil can be offset. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are honorable and loyal. You are aggressive, determined and capable of getting your way.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	2	1	9	7				
						3		
				2			8	
	1		2		3	6		
		6	1		5		4	
	7			9				
		4						
				1	6	4	2	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	2	1	3	4	7	8	5	9
4	9	8	2	5	6	7	1	3
5	3	7	8	1	9	4	2	6
8	1	9	5	3	2	6	7	4
7	5	3	6	8	4	1	9	2
2	6	4	9	7	1	3	8	5
9	4	6	1	2	8	5	3	7
1	7	5	4	9	3	2	6	8
3	8	2	7	6	5	9	4	1

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/01

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

BINAURAL BEATS **Solution: 10 letters**

M	(R)	C	O	N	S	C	I	O	U	S	N	E	S	S
Y	D	(A)	E	D	L	O	H	S	E	R	H	T	E	U
C	G	N	(E)	A	M	P	L	I	F	Y	I	V	I	R
N	G	N	I	(H)	C	T	A	M	T	M	A	D	D	R
E	S	T	I	M	U	L	I	I	U	W	I	T	U	O
U	S	O	U	N	D	L	V	L	N	G	N	T	T	U
Q	Z	H	A	A	E	I	A	I	N	E	D	Y	S	N
E	T	C	E	N	T	T	A	I	M	E	N	R	G	D
R	R	R	N	C	I	R	S	N	C	R	R	T	N	I
F	E	A	A	O	B	S	I	I	E	E	E	E	I	N
O	H	E	N	T	E	A	P	C	L	L	T	M	L	G
C	C	S	I	C	R	H	S	E	E	I	T	M	E	S
U	T	E	O	T	E	I	F	T	N	E	A	Y	E	Y
S	I	R	N	R	D	T	A	O	O	F	P	S	F	N
S	P	E	A	K	E	R	N	Y	T	I	R	A	L	C

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Activity, Amplify, Asymmetry, Brainwaves, Channel, Clarity, Consciousness, Decipher, Discern, Entrainment, Feelings, Focus, Frequency, Hear, Hertz, Left, Listening, Matching, Mind, Pattern, Pitch, Processing, Rate, Read, Relief, Research, Sound, Speaker, Stimulation, Stimuli, Studies, Surroundings, Sync, Threshold, Tone

Yesterday's Answer: Invincible

NEW FROM WONDERWORD! The Wonderword 2010 Desk Calendar is now available for pre-order on Amazon.com and Calendars.com. Search: "Wonderword Calendar." Order yours today!

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd DBA Dickerson & Quinn would like to inform all customers that

LORETTA S. BABAUTA

is no longer associated with this company. Any commitments or arrangements made by her after September 28th will not be honored.

Computer Repair

Only $25 Minor Problem

WE ALSO FIX LAPTOP & USED PARTS

We Buy Used Computer & Printer.

Calvary Temple 233-5641 Open 7 Days a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

WHATZIT Solution:
Thumb a lift

MECHANIC WANTED

Saipan Auto Supply, Co., dba SASCO Service, is looking for an experienced mechanic/welder. Apply in person at SASCO on Middle Rd. near Poon's Restaurant.

DICKERSON QUINN INTERNATIONAL DISTRIBUTORS A Tan Holdings Company

D&Q Saipan is a leading wholesaler, distributor and manufacturer's representative. We have an opening for an ***experienced***

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- ❏ Experience at a suitable level in wholesale, distrubution or similar industry required.
- ❏ Must have own reliable transportation. Expenses will be reimbursed through a car payment plan.
- ❏ Computer skills required in Microsoft Excel & Word.
- ❏ Professional image with excellent written and oral communication skills.
- ❏ The successful applicant will be result oriented and must be well organized, flexible, reliable, punctual, and a self-starter.
- ❏ High School graduate minimum with some college or equivalent industry experience necessary.
- ❏ The succesful applicant *only* will be required to provide a police clearance.
- ❏ Local Hire *only* please.
- ❏ Applications close Friday October 9th, 2009.

D&Q Saipan Co., Ltd. is an equal opportunity employer.

For more information, please call 322 2706, or apply in person at the CTSI Building, Lower Base. Fax 322 2711. E-mail mpkretzers@dqsaipan.com

"My wish is to have my own PC with a DVD player and CD burner!"

22 years of making wishes of eligible children with life-threatening illnesses come true!

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Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net
www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm, M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

thumb elevator

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Find today's solution in this section

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for Used Car, Good running condition. We pay CASH! Please call 287-7676.

AUTOMOTIVE

Truck for Sale-98 Toyota Tacoma $3000. Excellent working condition/ some rust. Call Kathleen 322-2891

FOR SALE - RESIDENTIAL

Near Dandan Elem. 2 BdRm concrete house approx. 900sqm. 35K reduce to 28K OBO. Contact 287-7571•256-6456.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 2-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening date: October 2, 2009 Closing date: October 16, 2009

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancies:

1 (one) Vessel Traffic Controller-I (Seaport)
1 (one) Tariff Technician-I (Seaport)
2 (two) *General Maintenance*-II (Airport)

Employment Application must be accompanied with a first copy of all required diploma/certificates, original copy of recent police record not more that six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, October 16, 2009.

Minimum Qualifications:

Vessel Traffic Controller-I: Any combination equivalent to graduation from high school (or G.E.D.) and no less than two (2) years of progressive responsible experience in a U.S. seaport/harbor operations or ocean transportation firm of which one (1) year shall be experience in shipping operations.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction from any jurisdiction.

Tariff Technician-I: Any combination equivalent to graduation from high school (or G.E.D.) with no less than two (2) years of progressive responsible experience in a U.S. seaport/harbor operations or ocean transportation firm.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction from any jurisdiction.

General Maintenance-II: Any combination equivalent to graduation from high school (or G.E.D.) and a two (2) year degree or equivalent in certification in a related field from an accredited U.S. college or trade school with at least two (2) years of experience in construction firms or maintenance operations at airports, major hotels or resorts, or commercial buildings.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction from any jurisdiction.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp. For more information, please contact the Executive Director by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening date: September 18, 2009 **Closing date: October 23, 2009**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) announces the following job vacancies:

1 (one) Executive Director
1 (one) Staff Engineer

Employment Application must be accompanied with a first copy of all required diploma/certificates, original copy of recent police record not more that six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 26 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. Failure to provide any of the required documents may result in automatic disqualification. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening. The deadline for submission of applications is no later than ***4:30 p.m., Friday, October 23, 2009.***

Minimum Qualifications:

Executive Director: Possess a four (4) year degree from an accredited U.S. University with no less than ten (10) years of progressively responsible experience in either of the following field: management, engineering, financial, aviation and/or maritime industry. Must have managerial and leadership experience acceptable to the Board of Directors.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction from any jurisdiction.

Staff Engineering: Possess a four (4) year degree in civil engineering from an accredited U.S. university with no less than seven (7) years of progressively responsible experience in a professional engineering level of which three (3) years pertain to supervisory experience.

Shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction from any jurisdiction.

Detailed information on qualifications and position description for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form during regular working hours at the CPA's Office (2nd Floor) of the Saipan International Airport, Arrival Wing, or may be downloaded by visiting CPA's website at www.cpa.gov.mp. For more information, please contact the Executive Director by phone at (670) 237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

/s/ **EFRAIN F. CAMACHO, P.E.**
Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone no. (670)236-0903 • Facsimile no. (670) 236-0990

NOTICE OF CLOSURE APPEALS CASES

Friday, October 2, 2009, First Notice
Friday, October 9, 2009, Second Notice

Each of the appeals listed below has been adjudicated and closed by the Department of Labor. In each case, this is a final agency action. All claims, including all claims for money damages, and all claims for eligibility for transfer, have been either adjudicated or dismissed. Any appellant or appellee listed below who has not been served personally with the Secretary's order adjudicating or dismissing case is now, as of the date of second publication of this notice, served with the order. A person served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the Secretary's order from the Executive Secretary. A person whose claim has been dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office has fifteen (15) days from the date of second notice in which to appeal the order. This publication does not affect any prior order served personally or by mail on any person.

Any appellant or appellee who has a claim covered by or a part of any of these cases that has not been adjudicated or included in a final order of the Secretary should report to the Executive Secretary at the Department of Labor, second floor, Afetna Square Building, San Antonio on or before **October 26, 2009** with the necessary documentation with respect to the claim.

Case No.	Appellant	Appellee
CAC 08-132-04	Del Barrio, Sol H.	
PAT/NOB 08-2706	Dollete, Mila DLC.	
PAT/NOB 08-3196	Hu, Xiu Yun (LIDS #153873)	
PAT/NOB 08-3305	Iceberg Corporation	
Extension of Time to Transfer	Lai, Dong Gui (LIDS #122318)	
LC 08-039	Liu, Dong Fan	Smart Guy Company Limited
Extension of Time to Transfer	Lu, Qing He (LIDS #172946)	
PAT/NOB 08-752	Mirano, Eric C. (LIDS #158591)	
LC 09-090	Nam, Tai Nyun	
PAT/NOB 08-1924	Pabale, Rodolfo B. (LIDS #111564)	
Extension of Time to Transfer	Pang, Dan (LIDS #198141)	
PAT/NOB 1387	Serra, Cristina N. (LIDS #291120)	
Extension of Time to Transfer	Sun, Guang Fu (LIDS #283004)	
PAT/NOB 08-2404	Wu, Yan Yu (LIDS #193307)	

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PSS RFP 09-023

GRANTS WRITING SERVICES FOR THE CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting proposals from qualified individuals or firms to help write, edit and review grants and grant reports for a variety of grants.

Beginning September 25, 2009 the Scope of Work and related information is available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950. Requests faxed to 664-3791 will also be entertained.

A Pre-Proposal Meeting will be held at 10:00 Am, October 14, 2009 in the Commissioner of Education's Conference Room on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building.

Proposals shall be placed in a sealed envelope marked **"RFP 09-023—"Grants Writing Services"** containing one (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than 10:30 AM on October 20, 2009. Any proposal submitted after this date and time will not be accepted.

Questions shall be in writing and addressed to Tim Thornburgh, Federal Programs Officer, via fax to 664.3767 or e-mailed to thornburght@gmail.com.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW09-IFB-032

NASA PLACE ASPHALT PAVING, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Nasa Place Asphalt Paving, Susupe, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package will be available on or after September 18, 2009 at DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor-Joeten Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (**$US100.00**) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at DPW Technical Services Division.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Preference is available to US Citizen as per Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118. Prospective bidders claiming for US Citizen Preference are required to submit *P&S Form 100 (Revised 12/20/07)* with their sealed bids.

A Pre-bid Conference is scheduled for October 07, 2009, 1:00 p.m. local time at the project site located at Nasa Place, in Susupe.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that the full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Joseph M. Inos, Jr., Director of Technical Services Division**, Suite 212, Joeten-Oleai Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who have obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgement of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/38 no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW09-IFB-032"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, October 19, 2009. Bidders located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, October 19, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than October 19, 2009, and must be received no later than October 28, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, November 02, 2009. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a. m. local time, on October 22, 2009.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars **($25,000)** a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **A surety company shall hold the Certificate of Authority (COA) from the U.S. Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General and must accompany the bid.** Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with NMIAC §70-30.3-301 of the Procurement Regulations. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than $25,000.00. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must hold a Certificate of Authority from the U.S. Department of Treasury as an acceptable surety and must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI. In addition, the contractor will be required to deliver a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments or other bond obligations) exceeded the penal amount of each bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Twenty **(120)** working days upon issuance of an official written Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Five Hundred Dollars **(US$500.00)** per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

This project is funded Saipan Local Law 15-12.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Bonine, Ordonez help Tigers beat Twins 7-2

DETROIT (AP)—Magglio Ordonez hit a three-run double as the Detroit Tigers beat the Minnesota Twins 7-2 on Wednesday to move closer to the American League Central title.

Eddie Bonine pitched five effective innings after getting off to a rough start for Detroit, which increased its lead to three games over the Twins. The Tigers can clinch their first division title since 1987 with a victory in Thursday afternoon's series finale.

Carl Pavano (13-12) allowed seven runs and seven hits in 4 2-3 innings. He was 4-0 with a 1.69 ERA in five previous starts against Detroit this year.

AP

Detroit Tigers' Magglio Ordonez, left, congratulates teammate Ramon Santiago after they defeated the Minnesota Twins 7-2 in a baseball game Wednesday, Sept. 30, 2009, in Detroit.

Blue Jays 12, Red Sox 0

At Boston, Roy Halladay pitched a three-hitter for his second consecutive shutout as Toronto sent Boston to its sixth straight loss.

The Red Sox started only two regulars after clinching the AL wild card late Tuesday night. They were hitless until Joey Gathright's clean single to left with one out in the sixth.

The Blue Jays hit four homers—two by Randy Ruiz and one each by Lyle Overbay and Jose Bautista—one day after hitting six.

Halladay (17-10) had a strong outing in what might be his last game for the Blue Jays. He has one year left on his contract and could be traded in the offseason, although he'd have to agree to a deal.

Rays 5, Orioles 3

At St. Petersburg, Florida, James Shields carried a shutout into the eighth inning and Ben Zobrist hit a three-run homer as Tampa Bay extended Baltimore's losing streak to 13 games.

Baltimore can tie the second-longest skid in franchise history set in August 1954 with a loss in the series finale against the Rays on Thursday night.

Shields (11-12) allowed three runs and six hits over eight innings.

Carl Crawford also homered for the Rays (82-76), who guaranteed their second-ever winning season.

Royals 4, Yankees 3

At New York, Joba Chamberlain lasted just 3 2-3 innings in his final warmup for the postseason and was booed by fans at Yankee Stadium in a loss to Kansas City.

Derek Jeter homered leading off the first, and Nick Swisher's 29th homer tied the score in the fifth, a two-run drive off Robinson Tejeda.

Kansas City broke a seventh-inning tie when Mark Teahen walked against Damaso Marte (1-3) and John Buck tripled off Sergio Mitre.

Jamey Wright (3-5) pitched two innings for the win in relief off Robinson Tejeda, and Joakim Soria got three outs for his 30th save in 33 chances, stopping the Yankees' seven-game winning streak.

Indians 5, White Sox 1, 1st game
White Sox 1, Indians 0, 2nd game

At Cleveland, Mark Buehrle pitched six shutout innings and Paul Konerko drove in the only run as Chicago beat Cleveland to split a season-ending doubleheader, ending Eric Wedge's seven-year managerial run at home with the Indians.

Wedge's firing—and the dismissal of his coaching staff—was announced a few hours before the opener, won by the Indians 5-1. Despite being let go with six games left, Wedge wanted to finish what has been one of the most disappointing seasons in recent team history.

Angels 5, Rangers 0

At Anaheim, California, Matt Palmer combined with four relievers on a one-hitter as Los Angeles beat Texas for the third straight night, tying a club record for most runs in a season with 866.

Palmer (11-2) gave up a leadoff single in the first inning to Julio Borbon, walked two batters and induced a pair of inning-ending double plays in his 13th and final start of the season.

Darren Oliver struck out the side in the sixth. Jose Arredondo, Kevin Jepsen and fellow rookie Rafael Rodriguez each pitched a hitless inning. It was the sixth combined one-hitter in Angels history and the first since July 24, 2004, also at home against the Rangers.

Rangers first baseman Hank Blalock sustained a concussion while lunging toward the bag on a bunt play.

Mariners 7, Athletics 0

At Seattle, Ken Griffey Jr. hit a three-run homer and Brandon Morrow allowed one hit over eight impressive innings to lead Seattle over Oakland.

Griffey's 629th career home run came in the first inning off Clayton Mortensen (2-4), chased with nobody out in the second. Morrow (2-4) yielded only an infield single to Rajai Davis in the fourth and threw 105 pitches in the longest start of his career.

Morrow also set a career high for strikeouts with nine. Shawn Kelley completed the two-hitter.

Phillies 10, Astros 3

At Philadelphia, Kyle Kendrick pitched three scoreless innings in relief of Pedro Martinez and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Houston Astros to clinch their third straight NL East crown.

Raul Ibanez hit his career-high 34th homer and Jimmy Rollins had a double and triple for Philadelphia, which is heading to the postseason for the third straight year for the first time since Mike Schmidt, Steve Carlton and crew won three consecutive division titles from 1976-78.

Kendrick (3-1) gave up two hits and struck out four. Martinez lasted just four innings, allowing three runs and six hits in his first start since a neck strain forced him out of a game at Atlanta on Sept. 19.

Astros starter Brian Moehler (8-12) gave up seven runs in 4 1-3 innings.

Rockies 10, Brewers 6

At Denver, Todd Helton, Carlos Gonzalez and Troy Tulowitzki each hit a two-run homer, and Colorado moved closer to a playoff spot.

The Rockies lead the wild card by four games over Atlanta with four to play. They also pulled within 2 1/2 games of NL West-leading Los Angeles, which is off Thursday before hosting Colorado for three games to finish the season.

Prince Fielder, Mike Cameron and Casey McGehee homered for the Brewers. Jeff Suppan(notes) (7-12) got the loss.

Jason Hammel (10-8) became the fifth Colorado pitcher to reach double digits in wins this season, going five innings and giving up four runs and seven hits.

Padres 5, Dodgers 0

At San Diego, Clayton Richard stopped Los Angeles from clinching the NL West title, throwing seven sharp innings to lead San Diego to the victory.

The Dodgers equaled their season high with their fourth consecutive loss, failing once again to secure its second consecutive division title for the first time since 1977-78. They beat Pittsburgh 8-4 on Saturday night to wrap up a playoff berth.

Los Angeles has dropped six of eight overall, all on the road to sub-.500 teams.

Richard (5-2) surrendered Los Angeles' only hit, a first-inning single by Matt Kemp. Mike Adams and rookie Luke Gregerson each got three outs to finish up.

Jon Garland (11-13) allowed five runs, four earned, and seven hits in 3 1-3 innings for the Dodgers.

Marlins 5, Braves 4

At Atlanta, Ricky Nolasco struck out nine straight Braves and finished with 16 strikeouts—the most by a major league pitcher in more than two years—and Florida held on for a victory.

Trying to make a late push for the NL wild card, the Braves rallied for two runs in the ninth inning and had a chance to win after loading the bases with two outs. But the game ended when Matt Diaz was thrown out trying to scamper back to third following a pitch in the dirt.

Nolasco's nine consecutive strikeouts in one game were one short of the big league record set by Hall of Famer Tom Seaver for the New York Mets on April 22, 1970, against San Diego.

Nolasco (13-9), who struck out 14 of his first 19 batters, lasted 7 2-3 innings. He set a Marlins record with his 15th strikeout when Diaz fanned for the final out of the seventh.

Javier Vazquez (15-10) lost for the first time in five starts.

Giants 4, Diamondbacks 1

At San Francisco, Brad Penny pitched his first complete game in four years, Eli Whiteside homered and San Francisco got the win less than two hours after it was eliminated from playoff contention.

Penny (4-1) allowed six hits to remain unbeaten in four starts this season at AT&T Park since being claimed off waivers from Boston. He retired 16 of the final 17 batters in his fourth career complete game and first since Aug. 14, 2005, against the New York Mets.

The Giants were knocked out of the playoff race by NL wild card-leading Colorado's 10-6 victory over Milwaukee.

Stephen Drew had two hits for Arizona, which scored its only run on a throwing error by Penny in the fourth. Kevin Mulvey (0-3) got the loss.

Nationals 7, Mets 4

At Washington, Justin Maxwell's grand slam off All-Star closer Francisco Rodriguez with two outs in the ninth inning gave the Nationals their first win all season when trailing after eight innings.

Maxwell drove a full-count pitch from Rodriguez (3-6) barely over the wall in left field.

The Mets led 4-2 entering the ninth, but Rodriguez loaded the bases, then walked Adam Dunn to force in a run. Then came Maxwell's third homer of the season, making a winner of reliever Ron Villone (5-6).

Reds 6, Cardinals 1

At Cincinnati, Laynce Nix hit a grand slam off John Smoltz, Bronson Arroyo pitched into the ninth inning and Cincinnati beat St. Louis.

Arroyo (15-13) allowed one run and four hits in 8 1-3 innings.

St. Louis has lost three straight since clinching the NL Central title. Smoltz (1-3), hoping to earn a spot in the Cardinals' postseason rotation, gave up six runs and six hits with five walks and three strikeouts in four innings.

Pirates 4, Cubs 0, Game 1
Pirates 8, Cubs 2, Game 2

At Chicago, Ryan Doumit had four hits and four RBIs to help the Pirates beat the Cubs for a doubleheader sweep.

Jeff Karstens (4-5) tossed five innings for the second victory by a no-name Pittsburgh pitcher over a high-priced Cubs starter on the day. A few hours before Karstens beat Carlos Zambrano (9-7), Charlie Morton (5-9) threw a four-hitter in a victory over Ted Lilly (12-9).

Doumit hit his 10th homer to help Pittsburgh complete its first doubleheader sweep at Wrigley Field since June 20, 1983.

Indians fire Eric Wedge; he'll finish season

CLEVELAND (AP)—Eric Wedge lost his job and kept his uniform.

Wedge was fired Wednesday as manager of the Cleveland Indians, who are in the final days of a terrible season that began with high hopes.

Despite being told he would not be back next season, Wedge will manage the last six games of his seventh year with Cleveland, which entered Wednesday's doubleheader against the Chicago White Sox one game out of last place in the AL Central.

"I still wanted to finish what we started this year," said Wedge, who led the Indians to one playoff appearance since 2003 and went through two rebuilding projects with the midmarket club. "I felt it was the right thing to do. It's been a long run here—as managers go."

General manager Mark Shapiro said he and owners Larry and Paul Dolan came to a collective decision on Wedge's future "fairly recently" and that Cleveland's coaches were told Tuesday night that they would not be retained for the 2010 season. Wedge is under contract for 2010.

Wedge's firing had been rumored for weeks, and although him still being around makes for an awkward situation, he's glad to have some resolution.

"It's been a big elephant in the room for a while," he said.

Agent: Michael Vick re-signs with Nike

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Vick is back with Nike two years after the company severed ties over the quarterback's involvement in a dogfighting ring.

"Mike has a long-standing, great relationship with Nike, and he looks forward to continuing that relationship," his agent, Joel Segal, said Wednesday.

Segal would not reveal terms of the agreement. Nike declined a request for comment.

The deal was announced during a panel discussion at the Sports Sponsorship Symposium by Michael Principe, the managing director of BEST, the agency that represents Vick.

The endorsement is the latest step forward for Vick as he seeks to rehabilitate his career and his image after serving 18 months in federal prison. On Sunday, Vick played his first regular-season game since December 2006.

"It is quite evident that athletes that run afoul of the law are by no means relegated to obscurity when it comes to pitching products," said David Carter, a professor of sports marketing at the University of Southern California.

Vick signed with the Philadelphia Eagles on Aug. 13. NFL commissioner Roger Goodell gave him his full reinstatement Sept. 3, saying he could return to the field in Week 3.

Vick participated in 11 plays, accounting for 30 total yards, in the Eagles' 34-14 win over the Kansas City Chiefs, as Philadelphia tries to use him in a variety of ways as a backup.

Nike, which signed Vick as a rookie in 2001, terminated his contract in August 2007 after the Atlanta Falcons star filed a plea agreement admitting his involvement in the dogfighting ring. At the time, Nike called cruelty to animals "inhumane, abhorrent and unacceptable" and halted release of his fifth signature shoe, the Air Zoom Vick V.

Back when Vick first signed with the Eagles, Carter had said he was "too toxic for most companies to even consider taking a chance on him." What's changed? As Carter noted Wednesday, there has been little backlash to the quarterback's return to the NFL.

Protests have been limited, and the Eagles' sponsors have stood by them. That experience could make companies less wary about adding Vick as an endorser, though the biggest determinant might be no different from any other athlete: how well he performs on the field.

Retailer Dick's Sporting Goods said earlier this month that it wasn't carrying Vick's Eagles jersey in any of its 300 stores as a business decision.

But Paul Swangard, managing director of the Warsaw Sports Marketing Center at University of Oregon, isn't surprised that Nike re-established its relationship with Vick.

"Nike has a history of supporting athletes. I think they are supporting an athlete who still garners attention," Swangard said. "This is about Michael Vick as the athlete not Michael Vick the prisoner. ... When he is inside the lines of the field he is an exciting football player and that's what a brand like Nike can tap into."

Vick signed a $1.6 million deal with the Eagles, with a team option for the second year at $5.2 million. He was once a corporate star - holding multimillion dollar deals to market everything from sneakers to sports drinks. But those millions are long gone.

In July, Vick filed for bankruptcy protection while serving his sentence, saying he owed between $10 million and $50 million to creditors.

To Carter, Nike likely made a calculated business decision that the benefit of sales tied to Vick outweighed any potential public outrage.

Vick must still have some selling power if the company is getting behind him, he said. "Nobody understands their consumer and has their finger on the pulse of their consumer like Nike does."

LT *back at practice for* Bolts

SAN DIEGO (AP)—LaDainian Tomlinson was back at practice Wednesday for the first time since spraining his right ankle in the season opener, an encouraging sign for a San Diego Chargers team that has struggled to run the ball.

After missing two straight games for the first time in his brilliant career, Tomlinson hopes he can play Sunday night at Pittsburgh. Not only do the Chargers (2-1) expect the defending Super Bowl champions to be riled up after falling to 1-2, but San Diego hasn't won in Pittsburgh since upsetting the Steelers in the AFC championship game following the 1994 season.

The Chargers have been careful to avoid rushing Tomlinson back. They could either chose to let him play Sunday night or have him sit out a third straight game and then have the bye week to continue to heal.

"I want to play in this game," Tomlinson said. "But again, that's dependent on how the ankle does. I think having the bye week definitely helps us both ways, playing and not playing. I think we're going to wait and see."

Tomlinson participated in all of practice.

"I'm just trying to get back into it, just kind of testing it and see how it feels during practice," he said. "Any time you come off being injured, you gain confidence back by practicing. So today was a measuring stick of where I am. It felt pretty good."

Tomlinson said the key will be how his ankle feels on Thursday.

"I'm going to continue to get treatment and we'll see as the week goes along," he said.

"It was good to have L.T. practice," coach Norv Turner said. "I thought for what we asked him to do and what he did in the first day back, things went smooth. I'm anxious to see how he feels in the morning. I thought there were a couple of times that he turned it on pretty good.

NBA BRIEFS

New NBA rule prohibits Twitter use during games

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA is instituting a policy regarding Twitter and other social media sites, banning players from using them during games. The league sent a memo to teams on Wednesday telling them that cell phones and other communication devices can't be used from 45 minutes before game time until after players have finished their responsibilities after games. That includes halftime. The rule applies to "coaches, players and other team basketball operations personnel." NBA spokesman Tim Frank confirmed the memo and its contents. The memo does not specify penalties for violation of the rule, and says teams are free to create their own policies for practices and other team events. The NBA has more than 1.4 million followers on Twitter, and many players are active on it.

Knicks' Curry out 3-5 days with calf injury

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. (AP)—Knicks center Eddy Curry will have blood drained from a torn right calf muscle and is expected to miss three to five days. The Knicks said Wednesday that Curry had left for New York to have the procedure and would return to training camp Thursday afternoon. Trying to come back after he was limited to three games during an injury-ruined 2008-09 season, Curry was hurt Tuesday night during a scrimmage. He tore the plantaris muscle, which runs from the high calf to the heel. The injury is common in tennis players. Curry couldn't practice at all here last year after being hospitalized with an illness.

Ol'Aces gain second win in Rotary caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Ol'Aces are back on track in the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball after crushing Young 670 Rollers III, 60-38, on Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Sonny Flores-mentored Ol'Aces came off a humiliating 44-64 loss to 670 Rollers II last week and vented their ire on the latter's sister team to improve to a 2-4 record.

Ol'Aces pulled away midway in the first half behind Kevin De Leon's breakaway layups.

Young 670 Rollers III was still in the game, trailing by only two, 15-17, after Savali Talalemoto scored seven straight points, going into the last 10 minutes of the first half.

However, Young 670 Rollers III were rattled by the Ol'Aces' backcourt pressure defense in the remaining moments of the first half. Ol'Aces turned Young 670 Rollers III's turnovers to easy baskets with De Leon cashing on a couple of fastbreak layups.

Douglay and Eugene Dillay, Wes Tomokane, Nathan Chargualaf, Luther Taylor, and Trevor Ogumoro also scored in the breakaway to give Ol'Aces a 34-23 halftime lead.

Ol'Aces continued to put up a trapping defense in the second half to preserve the easy win.

Tomokane led Ol'Aces with his 15 points, while De Leon and Douglas Dillay also scored in double figures with 12 and 10 markers, respectively.

Talalemoto had 20 points for Young 670 Rollers III, who has yet to win a game after four matches. Talalemoto was the lone double figure scorer for Young 670 Rollers III, as its second highest scorer—John Norita—managed to make only four points. Five other Young 670 Rollers III players drilled only two points apiece.

Ol'Aces 60 – Tomokane 15, De Leon 12, D. Dillay 10, Ogumoro 6, Taylor 5, Chargualaf 4, Ngirchongor 4, E. Dillay 4.

Young 670 Rollers 38 – Talalemoto 20, Norita 4, Cenir 2, Diaz 2, Marianu 2, Baka 2, B. Barry 2, Camacho 2, Teregeyo 1.

Scoring by halves: 34-23, 60-38.

MISSION

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third, respectively.

Triathletes experience tsunami effect

Twenty-three triathletes completed the race and they were thankful not only for finishing the event, but also for being saved from possible tragedy in the water.

The triathlon competition took place a day after tsunamis hit Samoa and American Samoa, which are just a short distance northwest of Rarotonga.

"The tsunami was felt here, but did not result in any injuries or property damage. The water in the harbor, which is in the north side of the island, rose and fell quickly and frequently, and some boats decided to flee for the open ocean," White said.

"Areas of the island protected by the reef experienced no effects at all. Our thoughts are with our brothers and sisters from Samoa, American Samoa, and Tonga, which suffered severe damage and loss of life," he added.

The Fiji and Tahiti triathlon team had their practice swim in the harbor on the same day tsunamis struck the three South Pacific nations.

Triathletes noted in the Mini Games website that the tide was dropping dramatically and the water began pouring off the coral edge of the marina into what was becoming a near empty marina a few minutes after Team Fiji finished its practice or around 8am. A strong earthquake measuring 8.3 on the Richter Scale struck at 17.48 GMT on Tuesday (05:48am in Samoa) generating 15-foot (4.5 metres) waves in some areas of the islands.

Boats then left the harbor for safety and after 15 minutes the Tahitian Team arrived looking for some swim practice and asking whether this was a normal action for the harbor, according to the website.

In the next three hours, a mass of debris, coconuts; sticks; buoys, and a 40-gallon drum raced up and down the marina as the tide continued to rise and fall.

"One can only imagine the disastrous situation had the Fijians started their practice later or the Tahitians earlier. So the timing was such that if the triathlon had been on Tuesday or the tsunami had been on the Wednesday, the athletes would have been half way through their swim when the waves hit," the website added.

"Our hearts go out to our Pacific neighbors for the lives lost so tragically, we can only count ourselves so lucky," one of the triathletes was quoted as saying in the website.

Fiji zeroes in on overall championship

Two days before the Mini Games concludes, Fiji has the overall title already in the bag with its 33-17-19 gold-silver-bronze tally.

Tahiti is still in second with its 20-19-14 tally as of yesterday, followed by New Caledonia (18-13-17). Samoa bumped off host Cook Islands for the No. 4 spot with the former's 12-14-12 tally against the latter's 10-10-13. Tonga dropped from fifth to seventh with its 4-9-3. Nauru moved up to sixth with its five gold medals and four silver.

HYATT

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ers Elmer Esdrelon and Joemary Tumaquip early in the third quarter. Tumaquip left first in the 6:16 mark of the third period, when he committed a cheap foul, as he and Junior Renguul tried to trap Bernard Aquino in the sideline. Esdrelon, who was called for three early fouls in the first period and sat out half of the second quarter when he gained his fourth foul, left the game in the closing minutes of the third when he collided against a driving Mike Umali.

Big men Edsel Mendoza and Darwin Barbo fouled out, too in the latter part of the fourth quarter. Mendoza kept Hyatt at bay with his baskets before leaving in the last minute of the fourth, while Barbo, who could had given IT&E the win in regulation had not been for his free throw misses, fouled out in the last 14.4 seconds of the final canto.

Barbo made a lot of trips from the foul line in the last three and a half minutes of the fourth quarter, but went only 9-for-12, giving Hyatt a chance to steal the victory.

Both teams had an opportunity to take the victory in regulation, but again free throw booboos prevented them from doing so.

With Hyatt ahead by one on Nate Mateo's free throw, 91-90, Renguul trooped to the 15-foot line after being fouled from the backcourt. Prior to this, Mateo missed his second free throw and Bruce Berline collared the rebound. Berline was then pressured by Hyatt defenders, lost his footing and fell on the floor. The usually active referees let Berline go and the IT&E big man managed to give the ball to Renguul, who was fouled while dribbling out of defenders.

Renguul made his first charity and gestured to Hyatt fans, who were trying to distract him at the foul line. Renguul then muffed the second free throw and Hyatt got the rebound with Umali driving to the middle and drawing a foul from Norman Del Rosario. With 1.5 seconds left, Umali faltered twice from the 15-foot line, pre-empting Hyatt's celebration and sending the game in overtime.

In the extension period, fatigue took its toll on Berline, who left the game in the 4:43 mark of overtime due to cramps. Mike Watanabe replaced him, but less than a minute later, Watanabe was called for his fifth foul, leaving IT&E with only four players.

IT&E was still in the game when Watanabe left, trailing by only two, 97-95, before Hyatt capitalized on its depleted foe to take the 12-point win. Berline rejoined IT&E with less than a minute in overtime, but Hyatt already had the game in the bag.

Ray Lizama paced Hyatt with 30 points, making timely baskets that foiled IT&E's repeated comeback bids in the second half.

Barbo led IT&E's gallant stand with his 34 markers, while Renguul chipped in 27.

In the second game, CPA-Accounting walloped Customs, 87-42, for the former's third straight win.

Jeff Cloud, who had 24 points in CPA's win over Bank of Guam on Monday, top-scored for his team, anew firing 20 points. Three other CPA-Accounting players also finished in double figures with K.C. Yangilmao tallying 18, and Kirk Schuler and Ed Diaz contributing 16 and 15 points, respectively.

First Game

CPA-Accounting 87 – Cloud 20, Yangilmao 18, Schuler 16, Diaz 15, Aaron 8, Sasamoto 5, Borja 5

Customs 42 – R. Lizama 12, Rosario 6, Maratita 4, S. Santos 3, L. Reyes 3, Ja. Sablan 3, Cepeda 3, J.P. Sablan 2, J. Lizama 2.

Scoring by quarters: 18-6, 39-15, 61-29, 87-42.

Second Game

Hyatt 112 – Lizama 30, Aquino 16, Delos Reyes 15, Arreza 14, De Guzman 9, Sablan 9, Mateo 7, Umali 4, Gabaldon 2, Vargas 2, Mendoza 2.

IT&E 100 – Barbo 34, Renguul 27, Berline 13, Mendoza 10, Esdrelon 10, Tumaquip 4, De Leon 2.

Scoring by quarters: 25-34, 49-41, 66-57, 93-93, 112-100.

REZNE

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Rainbow Warriors traveling team, according to Wells.

And Wong, in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune*, specifically identified those traits as the ones swimmers back home should adopt and nurture.

"Keep swimming hard and be a good teammate. Swimming may be an individual sport, but in practice and in meets, being one team is very important. Encourage and push each other. Also listen to your coaches. Learn as much as you can from your sport, and give respect to other athletes. Be humble, even if you are faster than everyone else," he said in a recent e-mail.

Wong also extended his thanks to all those who supported him and those instrumental and making his dream to swim for a Division I school a reality.

"I wouldn't be here, living my dream if it weren't for those who encouraged me and pushed me. I thank my family, who was supported me for 18 years, and for 12 swimming years. I thank the Saipan Community Church family, who has always stood by be in times of hardship.I also thank my teachers in SCS and MHS, for teaching me things of great value. I also want to acknowledge my coaches, Bill Sakovich and Hiro Kimura, for coaching me to be the person I am now. I have learned a great deal from both of them, and I wouldn't be swimming here at UH-Manoa if it weren't for them. And last but not least I thank God for blessing me with these great opportunities to succeed," he wrote to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Wong is enrolled at UH-Manoa's Marine Biology Program and plans to pursue minors in Athletic Training and Digital Arts as well. He is currently taking courses in political science, oceanography, religion, and chemistry.

He will travel to California with the UH-Manoa Rainbow Warriors when they compete against University of California-Berkley on Oct. 9 and Stanford University on Oct. 10.

RUGBY

From Page 36

more "real" rugby players than Guam did and dominated the annual "friendship" and "goodwill" games against them, winning something like 10 years in a row.

Rugby petered out about the same time as the youth and adult tackle football leagues did. Football never got more than a toehold in the CNMI not because guys didn't want to play, but rather due to the exorbitant cost of equipping a team. As businesses dried up, so did sponsors.

The disappearance of rugby, a low-cost sport, however, had nothing to do with the economy and everything to do with shifting demographics. I personally miss it because it's a great spectator sport, right up there with mixed martial arts and football. Nothing quite like seeing guys beat each other up and then shake hands afterward and share a beer or six.

While I haven't seen any rugby games on Saipan lately, I have seen quite a few in my living room. The Australian Network on Channel 53 has been showing the National Rugby League and I have fallen in love with the sport. With games in our own time zone aired on weekend evenings, they are perfect excuse for relaxing with libation in hand.

The NRL features clubs with cool logos and names such as Rabbitohs, Sea Eagles, Roosters, and Eels.

The championship game, the Grand Final they call it, will be played Sunday between the Melbourne Storm and Parramatta Eels. My favorite team is the Storm with their two shades of purple uniforms. My favorite player is Billy Slater who reminds me of Gayle Sayers. Go Storm!

And go away storm! I hope Typhoon Melor doesn't knock out our power and cable television this weekend because this is one game I really look forward to seeing.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-New York	102		57	.642 –
z-Boston	91	67	.576	10 1/2
Tampa Bay	82	76	.519	19 1/2
Toronto	75	84	.472	27
Baltimore	60	98	.380	41 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	85	73	.538	–
Minnesota	82	76	.519	3
Chicago	77	82	.484	8 1/2
Cleveland	65	93	.411	20
Kansas City	65	94	.409	20 1/2

West Division

y-Los Angeles	94	64	.595	–
Texas	85	73	.538	9
Seattle	82	76	.519	12
Oakland	75	83	.475	19

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

y-Philadelphia	92	66	.582	–
Atlanta	86	72	.544	6
Florida	85	74	.535	7 1/2
New York	67	92	.421	25 1/2
Washington	55	103	.348	37

Central Division

y-St. Louis	90	68	.570	–
Chicago	82	76	.519	8
Milwaukee	77	81	.487	13
Cincinnati	76	82	.481	14
Houston	73	85	.462	17
Pittsburgh	61	97	.386	29

West Division

x-Los Angeles	93	66	.585	–
Colorado	90	68	.570	2 1/2
San Francisco	85	73	.538	7 1/2
San Diego	74	85	.465	19
Arizona	68	90	.430	24 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Pittsburgh 4, Chicago Cubs 0, 1st game
Washington 7, N.Y. Mets 4
Philadelphia 10, Houston 3
Florida 5, Atlanta 4
Cincinnati 6, St. Louis 1
Pittsburgh 8, Chicago Cubs 2, 2nd game
Colorado 10, Milwaukee 6
San Diego 5, L.A. Dodgers 0
San Francisco 4, Arizona 1
Cleveland 5, Chicago White Sox 1, 1st game
Chicago White Sox 1, Cleveland 0, 2nd game
Kansas City 4, N.Y. Yankees 3
Detroit 7, Minnesota 2
Tampa Bay 5, Baltimore 3
Toronto 12, Boston 0
L.A. Angels 5, Texas 0
Seattle 7, Oakland 0

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched division

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

GOVT/BIZ CAGE STANDINGS

Hyatt	4	0
IT&E	9	1
Tinian	4	1
Docomo	4	2
MBI	5	3
CHC	3	3
PSS	5	4
DCCA	3	5
CPA	3	5
BOG	3	6
Customs	1	4
ARFF	0	9

ROTARY STANDINGS

G-Stars	4	0
Sonics	5	1
Sixers	5	1
Sparks	4	2
Runnin' Rebels	3	2
670 Rollers 2	2	2
Rollers 1	2	2
CK Saints	2	2
Ol'Aces	2	4
Hi-5	0	3
Young 670 Rollers 3	0	4
Celtics	0	5

Abuy, Bartolo top PIC Bike for Life 3

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

James Abuy recorded his second victory in the PIC Bike for Life after ruling the third edition of the race held last Saturday at Obyan Beach.

Abuy, which tied Ric Antonio for first place in the PIC Bike for Life 1 in March this year, completed the almost 20-kilometer trail race in 46 minutes and 31 seconds to top the pro division. Abuy, who held hands with Antonio when they crossed the finish line together during the inaugural race, made it to Obyan Beach by only .01 of a second ahead of Antonio. PIC Bike for Life 2 winner Edgar Abalos checked in at third place with his time of 47:33.

Completing the Top 6 in the pro division were Patrick Gile (52:20), Raymund Tolentino (53:26), and June Evangelista (53:28).

Five other PIC employees joined the pro division of the event that aimed to raise funds for the Marianas March Against Cancer. Other finishers in the pro division were Derrick Apasan (53:31), Maung Sang Din (55:31), Ely Dolero (56:11), Cary Alamodin (57:53), and Ryan Sanciangco (59:00).

In the non-pro division, 14 completed the race with PIC assistant restaurant manager Rommell Bartolo finishing ahead of the pack after timing in at 54:22.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
James Abuy passes the trail portion of the PIC Bike for Life 3 near the old airport road on Saturday.

Bartolo was 34 seconds faster than runner-up Darwin Barbo, who submitted 54:56. Rounding out the Top 6 were Ben Dela Cruz (56:08), Gines Hingpit (56:56), John Ricafort (59:11), and PIC Food and Beverage director Steve Balakrishna (59:21).

Other finishers were Rodel Macasinag (1:00:56), Jess Acuavera (1:02:13), Ronald Quindoza (1:02:15), Patel Pukar (1:03:42), Marco Parayaoan (1:04:21), Joey Lucico (1:05:05), Rey Moreno (1:13:28), and Jesse Indalecio (1:18:58).

The race started and ended at Obyan Beach with riders cruising along the old airport road. Participants in both the pro and non-pro division took two loops of the course.

The PIC Bike for Life 3 had competition only for individuals, while the first two events held individual and team races. Team winners were determined by combining the times of the first three finishers of a squad.

SIS Fun Run, football games postponed

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Two sports events this Saturday have been suspended due to Typhoon Melor.

Saipan International School's Mili Saiki, in a message posted at the unofficial website of the Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation, said that the 2009 Saipan International School 5K Fun Run has been moved from this Saturday to Oct. 17, as Typhoon Melor is expected to hit the island this weekend.

Lydia Tan, 2009 NMIFA Youth Football Fall League coordinator, followed suit in announcing that games in the 18-and-under youth league this Saturday have been postponed for the safety of the participants.

The National Weather Station reported yesterday that Tropical Storm Melor has turned into a typhoon and Guam, along with the CNMI, are expected to receive tropical storm strength winds within 48 hours. Melor has maximum sustained winds of 75 mph and is expected to keep intensifying over the next day or two.

"Residents of Guam and the Northern Marianas are advised to closely monitor this potentially dangerous tropical cyclone," the NSW forecast stated.

This year's SIS Fun Run will be the ninth edition of the fundraiser. It is expected to attract running enthusiasts on Saipan and SIS students and their parents, teachers, and officials.

Last year's race started from Banzai Cliff and had participants run toward Cowtown Raceway Park and back to the finish line at Banzai Cliff. It drew 138 runners.

Veteran runner Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel won the men's division after completing the race in 19 minutes and 16 seconds. Youth runners Champ Untalan (19:57) and Matthew Mancao (20:34) came in second and third place, respectively.

In the women's division, Mieko Carey timed in at 21:23 to beat Rebecca Read (21:55) and Monica Yamaguchi (24:09).

This Saturday's football games should have been the second week of action in the NMIFA youth fall league. Four matches each in the co-ed U6 and U10 divisions were originally scheduled, while U8 had five and the girls' U13 and boys' U13 had two and one, respectively. Games are played in various school fields.

This year's fall league features age group teams from the MP United, Paire Football Club, Matansa Football Club, Independents Football Club, and the Tan Holdings Football Club.

Hustlers regain top spot in Agingan

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

NTT Docomo Hustlers regained the top spot in the Agingan Division of SBA-Budweiser Open 8-Ball League after sweeping USSP Watever last Tuesday at Utopia Sports Bar.

The 7-0 sweep at its home floor gave Hustlers a win-loss record of 36-13, a game ahead of archrival Jonny's IT&E Voyagers, whose 5-2 win over USSP Fotten Palau dropped it to second place at 35-14.

Jerry Soriano started the ball rolling for Hustlers as he beat Ken Phillips in the opening singles match. Edwin Gomez, Rowell Mariano, Joey Lucido, and Senen Pangilinan followed suit with wins over Quentin Ngirarois, Nolas Kaliga, Joe Shoking, and Rose Phillips.

Of those matches, only the Mariano-Kaliga and Lucido-Shoking duels went three games.

Hustlers also dominated the doubles with Pangilinan and Joemer Enriquez and Soriano and Robert Sanciangco completing 2-0 sweeps against Ken Phillips and Ngirarois and Kaliga and Shoking.

Watever's loss, meanwhile, dropped its record to 25-24 in the Obyan Division, still good for first place in the category.

Fotten Palau's 2-5 defeat in the hands of Voyagers gave it a 22-27 win-loss mark in the Obyan Division.

Other matches Tuesday saw D'Pirates Huwa (30-19, Agingan) fashion out a 6-1 win over VFW Sentinel (12-37, Obyan); Jonny's Home Boys (25-24, Agingan) beat D'Pirates 8 Ballers (17-32, Obyan), 5-2; and Wild Bill's Shark Attack (21-28, Obyan) eke out a 4-3 win over Round Two Perfect Spotters (22-27, Agingan).

Pacific Amusement, the same company that runs the leagues of the Saipan Electronic Darts Association, organizes the SBA-Budweiser Open 8-Ball League.

For more information about the Budweiser SBA Open 8-Ball League and SEDA, contact Rey Pinangay at 233-4397.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The USSP Fotten Palau team in the Obyan Division pose for a group shot. It is composed of Annie Tesiro, Mie Rengiil, Ron Chisato, John Mongami, and Taylor Watanabe.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The USSP Watever team in the Obyan Division pose for a group shot. It is composed of Ken Phillips, Rose Phillips, Joe Shoking, Quintin Ngirarois, Kun, and Nolas Kalinga.

Rocball prepares for upcoming season

Rocball, the islands' only indigenous sport, is preparing for its 26th year with preseason games tentatively set to start on Oct. 17 at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

James Feger, the sport's inventor, said the Rocball season this year begins as soon as six teams have registered to play.

He said anyone interested in forming a team should sign up seven players and choose one player to serve a captain/coach.

Teams can be organized with a mix of players from high schools, college, and the community. They should then choose a team name and turn in their rosters to him or Myron Laniyo at the MHS Gym.

Feger said Rocball games will be played during the Safe Haven Program hours after school on the weekdays from 5pm to 8pm and on Saturday between 4pm and 8 pm.

For information about the upcoming Rocball season, call Feger at 237-3235.

Last year, Evenflow came back from a 2-1 deficit in their best-of-three final series against No-Use to win the 2008 World Organized Rocball Community League at the MHS Gym.

Rocball was first written in Ebisu, Japan in 1979. The sport itself went through a two-year experimental period at Hopwood Junior High School from 1981 to 1983. Rocball started being played as a regular sporting activity in 1983.

In an earlier interview, Feger said Rocball is unique because it is the first team net sport to develop offensive and defensive scoring, multiple-point scoring, penalty point scoring, and included goals for scoring in this kind of sport.

Rocball is also the first sport of this kind that developed a scoring system, where a team could win a game by total amount of points scored using a set system of play, according to Feger.

He said outside of Saipan, he has heard reports that Rocball is also being played in India, on the beaches of California, and summer camps of the Midwest. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Bonine, Ordonez help Tigers beat Twins 7-2

Magglio Ordonez hit a three-run double as the Detroit Tigers beat the Minnesota Twins 7-2 on Wednesday to move closer to the American League Central title. **32**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Abuy, Bartolo top PIC Bike for Life 3

James Abuy recorded his second victory in the PIC Bike for Life after ruling the third edition of the race held last Saturday at Obyan Beach. **35**

Mission accomplished for Manglona

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Tinian pride Joshua Manglona achieved his goal in the triathlon competition of the 2009 Pacific Mini Games after completing Wednesday's race (Thursday on Saipan) in Rarotonga, Cook Islands, in less than three hours.

Manglona finished the 1.5-kilometer swim, 40-km bike, and 10-km run course—that took participants around Avatiu and Nikao area—in two hours, 54 minutes, and 36 seconds to place 10th among the 11 male triathletes.

According to CNMI chef de mission Michael White, Manglona did not only meet his goal, but also set a new personal best time.

"He is tired but in good spirits. During the race, Joshua was cheered on by Team Niue, with whom we shared quarters at Avarua School. In the true spirit of the Games, Niue adopted Joshua as one of their own, helping our small delegation to cheer him on in his race," White said in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune*.

New Caledonia's David Esposito had the fastest time in the men's division at 2:06:39 to take the gold medal. Tahiti's Laurent Barra timed in at 2:08:31 to claim the silver medal, while another New Caledonia bet—Aymeric Levasseur—settled for bronze after submitting 2:09:18.

In the women's division, New Caledonia swept the three medals with Erika Ellis (2:24:45) finishing first, followed by Catherine Grangeon (2:28:35) and Kandy Point (2:37:31).

New Caledonia also ruled the team event, while Tahiti and the Cook Islands placed second and

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JACK HARDY/WWW.SPORTINGPULSE.COM
The CNMI's Joshua Manglona, seen here nearing the finish line in the 2009 XTERRA Saipan Championships, completed the triathlon event in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in less than three hours. Inset is New Caledonia's David Esposito crossing the finish line at the 2:06:39 mark.

Hyatt edges IT&E in OT

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Hyatt's Ray Lizama, right, battles IT&E's Bruce Berline in a rebound play during their overtime game in the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League on Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Hyatt Regency Saipan survived IT&E in a foul-laden game in the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League, pulling off a 112-100 overtime win Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Hyatt's victory was its fourth in as many games, leaving the Ray Lizama-mentored squad the lone unbeaten squad in the 12-team league. IT&E absorbed its first loss after winning its first nine assignments.

The battle of undefeated teams saw referees' whistles active all night, as officials Arnold Mesa, Dado Vistal, and Noel Delos Santos called a total of 96 fouls, the most this season.

The foul-plagued game resulted to 13 disqualifications and even had IT&E forced to play with only four players in the last four minutes of the overtime period.

IT&E was hit the most by the foul trouble, as it lost key play-

See HYATT on Page 34

Rezne keeps feet on the ground

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Rezne Wong may be at the cusp of his dream of finally swimming for a Division I team, but he hasn't allowed his success to go to his head.

The 18-year-old Marianas High School alumni recently was ordered by head coach Victor F. Wales to join the University of Hawaii-Manoa traveling team.

Not a small feat considering that Wong was only a walk-on in his freshman year at UH-Manoa and was only supposed to red-shirt this year for the Rainbow Warriors.

His work ethic, rapport with teammates, and obvious improvement in the pool all contributed to his inclusion to the

See REZNE on Page 34

Rugby anyone?

The equator that runs across the Pacific Ocean not only divides the hemispheres, it divides the rugby playing islands from non-rugby playing islands. While the sport thrives in the South Pacific, it creates no more than a ripple across the North Pacific.

Why? The reason is obvious, answered by a short history lesson. Micronesian sports were influenced by American and Japanese cultures, while Australia and Britain affected Polynesia and Melanesia. The United States and Japan exported baseball. Australia and Britain exported rugby.

Polynesians with their body type are naturally and particularly suited for rugby just as they are for football. I read a remarkable statistic: one out of eight Samoans who play high school football in the States goes on to play college football. No other ethnic group comes close to that.

Once upon a time, rugby flourished on Saipan thanks to a significant population of South Pacific islanders. Much like a group of Bangladeshis who gather at American Memorial Park from time to time to play cricket, Samoans, Fijians, Tongans, and other South Pacific islanders took their game to Airport Field.

But in another clear sign of downsizing and reflection of economy, the sport eventually lost the critical mass of players needed to be a viable weekend activity. The last game I remember being played on Saipan was in 2003. The first was sometime in the early 1990s when Saipan was boomtown.

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2

During that time as a result of local immigration policy that facilitated workers coming here from the southern latitudes, we had

See RUGBY on Page 34